

# Treatise of Witchcraft.

By Richard Betenson. Barr.

Wherein sundry Propositions are laid  
downe, plainly discovering the wickednesse of that  
damnable Art, with diuerse other speciall points  
annexed, not impertinent to the same, such as ought  
diligently of euery Christian to be considered.

*With a true Narration of the Witch-  
crafts which Mary Smith, wife of Henry Smith Glouer,  
did practise: Of her contract vocally made between the  
Deuill and her, in solemne termes, by whose meanes she hurt  
sundry persons whom she enuied: Which is confirmed  
by her owne confession, and also from the publique Records  
of the Examination of diuerse vpon their oathes: And  
lastly, of her death and execution, for the same;  
which was on the twelfth day of Ianua-  
rie last past.*

By ALEXANDER ROBERTS B. D. and Preacher of Gods  
Word at Kings-Linne in Norffolke.

EXOD. 22. 18.

*Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to liue.*

Impium est nos illis esse Remissos, quos cœlestis Pietas,  
Non Patitur impunitos: Alarus Rex apud Cassiodorum.

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LONDON,

Printed by N. O. for SAMUEL MAN, and are to be sold at his  
Shop in Pauls Church-yard at the signe of the Ball.

1616.

A. 4834-

me





To the right Worshipfull Mai-  
ster Iohn Atkin Maior, the Re-  
corder and Aldermen, and to the Common  
Counsaile, Burgessees and Inhabitants of  
*Kings Linne in Norffolke,*  
Grace and Peace.

*Right worshipfull :*



**I**N these last dayes, and peril-  
lous times, among the rest of  
those dreadfull euills, which  
are fore told should abound  
in them, a close & disguised 2. Timoth. 3. 5.  
contempt of religion may be  
iustly accounted as chiefe,  
which causeth and bringeth vpon men all disa-  
strous effects, when although it be shadowed with  
a beautifull Maske of holines, faire tongued: yet  
false-harted, *a professing they know God, but in works* a Titus 1. 16.  
*deny him.* And among these there be two especi-  
all sorts; the one, who entertaining a stubborne,  
and curious rash boldnes, strue by the iudgemēt  
of reason, to search ouer-deeply into the know-  
ledge of those things which are farre aboue the  
reach of any humane capacitie. And so making  
shipwracke in this deep and vnsoundable Sea, o-  
uerwhelme themselves in the gulse thereof. The  
other kind is more sottish, dull, and of a slow wit,

## THE EPISTLE

and therefore ouer-credulous, beleeuing euerie thing, especially when they be carried by the violent tempest of their desires, and other vngouerned affections; and among these the diuell usually spreadeth his netts, as assured of a prey, wayting closely if hee can espie any, who either grow discontented and desperate, through want and pouerty, or be exasperated with a wrathfull and vnruly passion of reuenge, or transported by vn-satiabable loue to obtaine some thing they desire; and these hee taking aduantage, assaulteth with golden and glorious promises, to performe vnto them the wishes of their owne hearts; the drift whereof is (hee being as at the first incased in a subtile Serpents skinne) onely to enthrall and in-vassall them slaues to himselfe. The first of these mentioned, are flie and masked Atheists, who ouer-shadow their secret impiety, loose and dissolute behauiour with some outward conformitie and shew of religion, snatching (as they thinke) a sufficient warrantize thereof from those disorders they obserue among men, and therefore passe vncensured, hauing a ciuill, but dissembled carriage. The second be Sorcerers, Wisards, Witches, and the rest of that ranke and kindred: no small multitude swarming now in the world, yet supposed of many, rather worthy pittie then punishment, as deluded by fantasies, and mis-led, not effecting those harmes wherewith they bee charged, or themselues acknowledge. But considering they be ioyned and linked together with Satan in a league (the common and professed enemy

nemy of mankinde) and by his helpe performe many subtile mischieuous actions, and hurtfull designes, it is strange that from so great a smoake arising, they neither descrie nor feare some fire. And therefore, in respect of these, I haue at your appointment and request (for whom I am most willing to bestow my best labours and euer shall be) penned this small Treatise, occasioned by the detection of a late witch among you, whose irreligious care, and vnwearied industry, is not to be defrauded of deserued commendation, and by mature deliberation, and discrete search, found out her irreligious and impious demeanour, and also discovered sundry her vnnaturall and inhumane mischiefes done to others, whereof being conuicted, she was accordingly sentenced, and did vndergoe the penalty iustly appointed, and due by Law vnto malefactors of that kinde. After all which, you kindled with a holy zeale of the aduancement of Gods glorie, and giuing satisfaction to euery one howsoeuer affected, intermitted no meanes, vsing therein the labour of your carefull Ministers (willingly offering themselues in this holy seruice) whereby she might be brought (as one conuerted in the last houre) to the sight & acknowledgement of her heinous sins in generall, & particularly of that of witchcraft, confessing the same, & by true repentance, and embracing of the tender mercies of God in Christ Iesus saue her soule (who refuseth no true and vnfeined conuert at any time.) And hee graciously blessing these religious endeouors of yours, vouch-



THE EPISTLE, &c.

safed to second the same with a happy and wished  
for euent, which (as I hope) shall appeare mani-  
festly in the following Treatise vnto all those who  
are not fondly, & without cause, too much wed-  
ded to their owne conceits : And thus, desiring  
GOD most humbly to confirme and strengthen  
you in his truth, which euer you haue loued, and  
is your due praise, and shall be at the last an ho-  
nour vnto you : I rest

*Your worships in all Christian duty  
to be commaunded,*

A. ROBERTS.



## To the Reader.



*Christian Reader, I haue vpon occasion penned this short discourse, and that of such a subiect wherewith not being well acquainted, am enforced to craue some direction from those, whose names you shall finde remembred in the same: (that I be not vntankefull vnto those from whom I receiue instruction) and haue in former time, and latter dayes, taken paines in searching out, both the speculative, and practique parts of this damnable Art of Witchcraft, a dangerous and seducing inuention of Sathan, who from the Arcenals, and Magisins store-houses of his ancient and mischieuous furniture, hath not spared to affoord all helpe, and the best Engines for the subuerting of soules, pliable to his allurements: and to this end, beside a plaine narration of fact in this case committed and confessed, (least the Treatise should be too bare and naked) I haue added thereunto a few Propositions, agreeing to such a subiect matter, manifesting some speciall poynts not altogether impertinent in my opinion, nor unworthy of due consideration: I know mine owne wants, and do as willingly acknowledge them: One more experienced, and of greater leasure, and better health, had beene fitter for the opening and discovering of so deepe a mystery, and hidden secret of Iniquity, as this is; and haply hereafter may be willing to take that taske in hand: yet herein thou shalt finde something not vsuall: A manifest contract made with the Diuell, and by the solemne tearmes of a league, which is the ground of all the pernicious actions proceeding from those sorts of people, who are, haue beene, and shall be practitioners in that cursed and hellish Art. And yet no more then she, that Witch of whom*

## To the Reader.

in this relation we do speake, hath of her owne accord, and voluntarily acknowledged after conference had wit hme, and sundry learned and reuerend Diuines, who both prayed for her conuersion, carefully instructed her in the way to saluation, and hopefully rescued her from the Diuell, (to whom she was deuoted, and by him seduced) and regained her to God, from whom she was departed by Apostacie. And in this so Christian and holy action were the continuall paines of

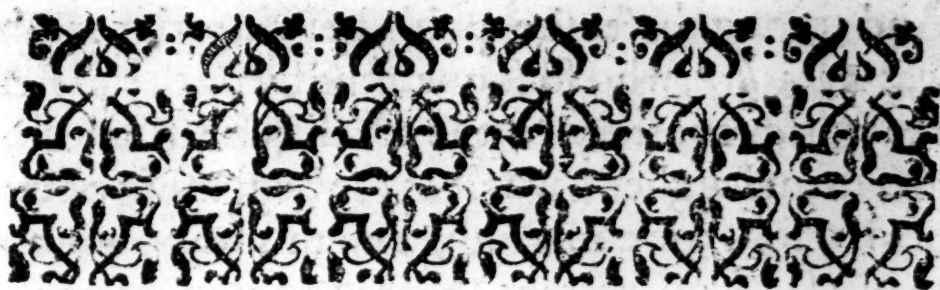
Maister { Thomas Howes.  
          { Thomas Hares.  
          { Iohn Man.  
          { William Leedes.  
          { Robert Burward.  
          { William Armitage.

And of these in the day of execution (which she in no wise would condescend vnto should be deferred, though offered reprimall vpon hope that more might haue beene acknowledged) being very distemperate, neuerthelesse some accompanied her to the place, and were both eye and eare-witnesses of her behauiour there, seeing and hearing how she did then particularly confesse her confederacy with the Diuell, cursing, banning, and enuy towards her neighbours, and hurts done to them, expressing euery one by name, so many as be in the following discourse, nominated, and how she craued mercy of God, and pardon for her offences, with other more specialities afterward expressed. And thus I end, taking my leaue, and commending thee to the gracious guidance and preservation of our good God in our blessed Sauour Christ Iesus.

Thine euer in the Lord,

A. ROBERTS.





A TREATISE OF THE  
CONFESSION AND  
EXECVTION OF *MARY SMITH*,  
*CONVICTED OF WITCHCRAFT*,  
and condemned for the same: of her contra& vo-  
cally & in solemne tearmes made with the Diuell;  
by whose meanes she hurt sundry persons whom  
she enuied, with some necessary Propositions added  
thereunto, discovering the wickednesse of that dam-  
nable Art, and diuers other spec all poynts, not  
impertinent vnto the same, such as ought  
diligently of euery Christian to  
bee considered.



HERE is some diuersitie of  
iudgement among the lear-  
ned, who should be the first  
Author and Inuenter of Ma-  
gicall and curious Arts. The  
most generall occurrence of  
opinion is, that they fetch  
their pedigree from the *Per-* *Augustinus de*  
*sians*, who searching more deeply into the secrets *diuinatione Da-*  
of Nature then others, and not contented to *monum: & de*  
bound themselves within the limits thereof, fell *Ciuitate Dei. lib.*  
foule of the Diuell, and were insnared in his nets. *7 cap 35. Plini-*  
*us historie natu-*  
*ra'is lib. 30. cap.*  
i.

<sup>b</sup> *Augustinus de  
Ciuitate Dei. lib.  
21. cap. 14.*

<sup>c</sup> *Iustinus in E-  
pitome Tregi  
Pompeij. lib. 1.*

<sup>d</sup> *Lactantius de  
origine erroris.  
lib. 2. cap. 17.*

And citeth the  
testimony of  
*Sibilla Erithraea*  
for prooffe

hereof. *Gratia-  
nus Decretorum  
part. 2. causa 26  
quest. 2. Canone  
sine saluatore,  
& iuuentas esse  
has artes &c.*

*αὐτοὶ οὐκ εἰσὶν οὐ  
ἀνθρώπων τῶν ὁρί-  
σας ὑποκρίσασθαι  
μέναντες τοῦτο  
ὑποτῆ διαβολῆς.*

*affirmat Cedre-  
nus in historie  
compendio.*

<sup>e</sup> *Probationes ex  
quibus legitimū  
est iudicia fieri,  
tres necessariae  
planè dici & in-  
dubitare possunt*

*1<sup>a</sup> veritas noto-  
rij & permanen-  
tis facti. 2<sup>a</sup> con-  
fessio voluntaria  
eius qui reus fa-  
ctus est, at que*

*peractus. 3<sup>a</sup> cer-  
torum testium fir-  
morumque testimonium :*

And among these, the publisher vnto the world  
was *Zoroaster*, who so soone as he by birth<sup>b</sup> entred  
the world, contrary to the vsuall condition of o-  
ther men, laughed, (whereas the beginning of our  
life is a sob, the end a sigh) and this was ominous  
to himselfe, no warrantise for the enioying of the  
pleasures of this life, ouercome in battell by *Ni-  
nus*<sup>c</sup> King of the *Assyrians*, and ending his dayes  
by the stroake of a thunder-bolt, and could not,  
though a famous Sorcerer, either fore-see, or pre-  
uent his owne destinie. And because he writ many  
bookes of this damnable Art, and left them to po-  
sterity, may well be accounted a chiefe maister of  
the same. But the Diuell<sup>d</sup> must haue the prece-  
dencie, whose schollers both he and the rest were,  
who followed treading in his steps. For he taught  
them South-saying, Auguration, Necromancie,  
and the rest, meere delusions, aiming therein at  
no other marke, then to with draw men from the  
true worshipping of God. And all these perniti-  
ous pra&ises are fast tied together by the tailes,  
though their faeces looke sundry wayes; and there-  
fore the Professors thereof are stiled by sundry  
names, as Magicians, Necromancers, Inchanters,  
Wizards, Haggas, Fortune-tellers, Diuiners,  
Witches, Cunning Men, and Women, &c.  
Whose Art is such a hidden mystery of<sup>e</sup> wicked-  
nesse, and so vnsearchable a depth of Sathan, that  
neither the secrets of the one can be discouered,  
nor the bottome of the other further sounded,

*4<sup>a</sup> addi potest violentæ presumptiones de  
Bodinus de Demonomania lib. 4. cap. 2. 3. 4.*

then



then either the practisers thereof themselves by their owne voluntary confessions made, or procured by order of Iustice (according to the manner of that Countrey where they be questioned) haue acknowledged, or is manifested by the sundry mischiefes done of them vnto others, proued by impartiall testimonies vpon oath, and by vehement presumptions confirmed, or else communicated vnto vs in the learned Treatises, and discourses of ancient and late Writers gathered from the same grounds. And<sup>f</sup> although this Hellish Art be not now so frequent as heretofore, since the Pagans haue beene conuerted vnto Christianity, and the thick fogges of Popery ouer-mantling the bright shining beames of the Gospel of *Iesus Christ* (who came to dissolue the workes of the Diuell .i. *Ioh.* 3.8.) and were by the sincere and powerfull preaching therof dispersed; yet considering these bee the last times, dayes euill & dangerous, fore-told that should come, 2. *Tim.* 3. 1. in which iniquity must abound, *Mat.* 24. 12. and as a raging deluge ouer-runne all, so that Faith shall scarce be found vpon earth, *Luk.* 18.8. and the Diuell loosed from his thousand yeares imprisonment, \* *Reuel.* 20. 3. enraged with great wrath walketh about, and seeketh whom he may deuoure. 1. *Pet.* 5. 8. Because he knoweth hee hath but a short time, *Reu.* 12. 12. Before I enter into the particularity of the narra-

<sup>f</sup> The Oracles of the Pagans in all places of the world, when CHRIST was borne, were silenced, and the Diuell became mute: so that *Augustus Cesar* demanding of *Apollo* by his messengers, sent to *Delphos*, had this answer returned, *πῆς εἰς ῥῆος καλῆς* &c. in sence thus much, An Hebrue Childe commandeth me to leaue this place, and returne againe to hell. From hence therefore you must depart from

our Altars, without resolution of any questions propounded. *Eusebius de preparati- one Euangelica, lib. 5. cap. 8.* *Theodoretus de Græcorum affectionum curatione qui est de oraculis* μετὰ τῆς αὐτοῦ ἡμῶν ἱστορίας ἀπὸ ἑσχατῶν τοῦ δὲ τῆς ἱστορίας τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἀπορ- ρητῶς, Vide & *Suidam in Augusto*, & *Athanasium de incarnatione verbi.*

\* De hac ligatione & solutione Diaboli plenissime *August. de Civitate Dei, lib. 20. cap. 8.*



tion intended, it shall be materiall to set downe some generall propositions, as a handfull of gleanings gathered in the plentifull haruest of such learned men, who haue written of this argument, whereby the erroneous may be recalled, the weak strengthened, the ignorant informed, and such as iudge aright already, confirmed: and among many other these as chiefe, all which you shall see exemplified in the following Discourse.

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### *The first Proposition.*

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¶ *Wierus de magi-  
gortū infamium  
pœnis lib. 6. cap.*

*17. 18. 19. 20. 21.*

*22. 23. 24. &c.*

*27. & de Lamis  
lib. 3. cap. 7. &*

*de lamiarum  
impotentia. But*

*this position  
commeth from*

*another as  
dangerous,*

*euen Infidelity  
denying that*

*there be any  
Diuels, but in*

*opinion; which  
was the do-*

*ctrine of Ari-  
stotle, and the*

*Peripatetique  
Philosophers.*

*Pomponatius de  
incarnationibus*

*Binsfeldius de  
confessionibus*

*maleficorum*

**I**T is a *Quere*, though needlesse, whether there be any Witches: for they<sup>e</sup> haue some *Proctōrs* who plead a nullitie in this case, perswade themselves, and would induce others to be of the same minde, that there be no Witches at all: but a sort of melancholique, aged, and ignorant Women, deluded in their imagination; and acknowledge such things to be effected by them, which are vnpossible, vnlikely, and they neuer did; and therefore Magistrates who inflict any punishment vpon them, be vnmercifull and cruell Butchers. Yet by the way, and their good leaue, who take vpon them this Apology, all who are conuented vpon these vnlawfull action, are not stricken in yeares; but some euen in the flower of their youth be nuzled vp in the same, and convicted to be practisers thereof; neither be they overflowed with a blacke melancholique humor, dazeling the phantasie, but haue

have their vnderstandings cleere, and wits as quicke as other: Neither yet be they all women, though for the most part that sexe be inclinable thereunto: (as shall afterward be shewed, and the causes thereof) but men also on whose behalfe no exception can be laid, why any should demurre either of their offence or punishment for the same. Wherefore for this point, and confirmation of the affirmatiue, wee haue sundry pregnant and eident proofes.

First testimonies Diuine and Humane: Diuine of God himselfe in his word,<sup>h</sup> left for our instruction in all dogmaticall truth, reproofe and confutation of falshood in opinions, correction for the reforming of misdemeaners in connerfation, doctrine for the guidance of euery estate Politicall, Ecclesiasticall, Oeconomicall. 2. *Timoth.* 3. 16. Therefore expressely, *Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to liue, Exod.* 22. 18. <sup>i</sup> but to bee executed in the same day wherein she is conuicted, and this was a custome obserued by the ancient Fathers.

*h* Διδασκαλία  
ἐλεγχος  
ἐπαπορθωσις  
παύσις

<sup>i</sup> Philo in libro  
de legibus speciali-  
bus.

And *Deuteronomy* 18. 10. 11. there is a blacke Bill set downe<sup>k</sup>, and registred of sundry kinds of these slaues of Sathan, all condemned, and God addeth in the same place the reasons of this his seuerer and sharpe iudgement against them. First, because they are an abomination vnto him. Secondly, he determineth vtterly to destroy all such, and giueth his people the Israelites an example thereof in the Canaanites, whom their Land spewed out. Thirdly, for that he requireth all who belong vnto him, to be pure, vndefiled and holy,

<sup>k</sup> Vide Paulum  
Phagium in an-  
notationibus, &  
Chaldaicam  
Paraphrasin in  
cap. 18. & 19.  
Leuitici.



not stained with impieties, for they are bound vnto him by couenant in obedience. Fourthly, such were the Heathen, strangers from God, blinded in their dark vnderstanding, without sauing knowledge, with whom the Israelites, a chosen and peculiar nation, enioying his lawes and statutes, must haue no familiarity. Further, the woman of *Endor* acknowledgeth herselfe to be one of the rank. *1. Sam. 28. 9.* And *Iesabel*, mother of *Iehoram*, is in plaine tearmes stiled a Witch. *2. King. 9. 22.* who is supposed to haue brought this Art, and the Professors thereof into *Samarina*, which there continued for the space of sixe hundred yeares. In somuch that it was rise in common speech, when any would reproach another, to doe the same in this forme; *Thou art a Samaritan, and hast a Diuell* (a familiar spirit) which the malicious Iewes, not abiding his heavenly and gracious doctrine, objected to Christ Iesus our blessed Sauour, *Ioh. 8. 48.* The holy Apostle reproving the *Galatians* for their sudden Apostasie and back sliding from the Gospell so powerfully preached vnto them and with so great euidence of the spirit, as though Christ had bin crucified before their eyes, doth it in no other termes then these, *who hath bewitched you? Gal. 3. 1.* And afterward, *Cap. 5. 20.* marshalleth Witch-craft among the workes of the flesh: In both which places the names are taken from the seducements and illusions of Inchanters, who astonish the mindes, and deceiue the senses of men, and all that by vertue of a contract passed betweene them and the Diuell. Other like proofes may

<sup>1</sup> Bodinus in confutatione opinionum Wicri.



may be added to these alledged, *Leuit. 20.6. Micah 5.12. Nahum. 3. 4.* Now then when God affirmeth there be such, whose words are truth, shall man dare once to open his mouth, and contradict the most righteous?

Concerning humane witnesses, they be almost infinite; and therefore it shall be sufficient to produce some few, choyce, and selected: <sup>m</sup> The second Councell of *Constantinople* held and gathered together in the Imperiall palace, of two hundred seven and twenty learned and reuerent Bishops, nameth sundry sorts of such Sorcerers, and censureth their actions to be the damned practises of the Pagans, and decreeth all the Agents therein excommunicated from the Church and society of Christian people, adding the motiue reason of this their determined sentence, from the Apostle, *2. Cor. 6.14.* For righteousness hath no fellowship with vnrightheousnesse, neither is there communion of light with darknesse, nor concord with Christ and Belial, nor the belecuer can haue part with an Infidell. And <sup>n</sup> *Chrysostome* sharply reproveth all such, and those who aduise with them vpon any occasion, confuting the reasons which they take to be sufficient warrantise of their doings. As among the rest they will pretend, Shee was a Christian woman who doth thus charme or inchant; and taketh no other but the name of God in her mouth, vseth the words of sacred Scripture. To this that holy Father re-

Councell before alleaged, to which may be added others of the same holy Bishop in his 9 Homily vpon the Epistle to the *Colossians*, & his 6 Sermon against the Iewes.

plieth,

<sup>m</sup> Cap 61. congregata est hec synodus sub Iuliano qui vocatus est inuentus, in qua erant Episcopi, 227. Balsamon in suis ad eum Commentarijs, & vocata est synodus in Trullo erat autem o τριλλος Secretarium palatii quia in eo fuit celebrata, eam autem nomen vocat Balsamon quasi Qui ni sexta dicas quia quod quinta & sexta synodis deerat (septem enim recipiunt Greci) hec expleuit, Nomenclator Græcorum dictionum que apud Harmenopulum occurrunt in suis iuris Promptuario. This testimony of Chrysostome is cited by Balsamon, in his exposition vpon that Chapter of the

\* Superstitio tā-  
to peior est quā-  
to plura miscen-  
tur bona, quoniam  
unde debet ho-  
norari Deus ho-  
noretur Diabo-  
lus. Ioh Gerson  
in Trilogia A-  
strologia Theolo-  
gica propositi-  
one 21.

¶ Vide Phoebii  
Patriarcha (on-  
stantinopoli an-  
ti in nono Canone  
titulo 13. cap. 19

¶ Ierome in his  
Apology a-  
gainst Rufinus.  
and Eusebius a-  
loweth but one  
only Epistle of  
his. Histor. Ec-  
clesiast. 2. cap. 16.  
Gratianus di-  
stinct 15 Epi-  
phanus contra  
Audanes.

¶ Homer. Odyssea  
10. caput 20.  
Eustathius.

¶ Euripides in  
Medea. Ovidius  
Metamorph. lib.

7. Pindarus Py-  
thorum Idillio

4. Apollonius  
Argonauticorum  
lib. 40.

plieth, Therefore she is the more to be hated, be-  
cause shee hath abused and taken in vaine that  
great and glorious name, and professing herselfe  
a Christian, yet practiseth the \* damnable Arts of  
miscreant and vnbeleeuing Heathen. For the  
Diuels could speake the name of God, and neuer-  
theless were still Diuels; and when they said vn-  
to Christ, they knew who he was, the holy one of  
God, &c. *Mar. 1 24. 25.* their mouthes were stop-  
ped, he would no such witnesse, that wee should  
learne, not to beleue them when they say the  
truth: for this is but a bait, that wee might after-  
ward follow their lies. There is much mention  
made of these, both in the Ciuill and<sup>n</sup> Canon  
Lawes, and diuersitie of punishment allotted out  
for them; so that none can doubt but that there  
hath beene, and are such. I might remember vnto  
you the authority of *Clemens Romanus* in his Re-  
cognitions, and those Constitutions which are  
fathered vpon the Apostles; but their credit is  
not so great, that they may without exception be  
inpannelled vpon this Iury, for they haue long  
since been chalenged of<sup>o</sup> insufficiencie.

Among the Gentiles, when these so qualified  
persons did swarme, and were accounted of high  
esteeme, there be reckoned vp whole troopes of  
this blacke guard of the Diuell; As *Circe* whom  
*Homer* reporteth to haue turned *Pisces* Compa-  
nions into Wolves, Lyons, Swine, &c. by her  
Inchantments, insauaging and making them  
beast-like and furious. *Medea* a famous in this  
kinde, for shee murdered by Witch-craft *Glauca*

in the day of her marriage, who enioyed *Iason* her  
loue. And the Mortars of these two, wherein  
they stamped their Magicall drugges, were for a  
long time kept in a certaine mountaine, and she-  
wed as strange monuments to those who desired  
a sight of them. For the Diuell furnisheth such  
with powders, oyntments, hearbes, and like re-  
ceipts, whereby they procure sicknesse, death,  
health, or worke other supernaturall effects. Of  
the same profession were *Simotha*, *Erietho*, *Ca-*  
*nidia*, and infinite others beside, whose damnable  
memory deserueth to be buried in euerlasting ob-  
liuion.

<sup>r</sup> Scholiaſtes  
Theocriti Idil 2  
ἐν τοῖς ἀνδράσι θρη-  
σκύνοντι τὰς μνη-  
δαίαι καὶ Κίρκης  
ἄρμυς ἐν τοῖς ἐκκοπ-  
ταῖ τα φάρμακα  
<sup>r</sup> Remigius de-  
monolatrias lib.  
1. cap 2.  
<sup>r</sup> Theocritus in  
φάρμακων τετα,  
Idil. 2.  
<sup>u</sup> Lucan. Phar-  
salibus lib. 6.  
<sup>x</sup> Horatius  
Epe dion lib. 5.

But because the reports of these may seeme to  
carry small credit, for that they come from Poets,  
who are stained with the note of licentious *fai-*  
ning, and so put off as vaine fictions; yet seeing  
they deliuer nothing herein but that which was  
well knowne and vsuall in those times wherein  
they liued, they are not slightly, and vpon an i-  
maged conceit, to be reiected: for they affirme  
no more then is manifest in the records of most  
approued Histories, whose essence is and must  
be<sup>r</sup> truth, as straightnesse of a rule, or else deserue  
not that title. In which wee reade of *Martiana*,  
*Locusta*, *Martha*, *Pamphilia*, *Aruna*, &c. And  
not to insist vpon particulars, there bee infinite  
numbers ouerflowing euen in these our 8 dayes,

<sup>r</sup> Pictoribus at-  
que Poetis quid-  
libet audiendi  
semper fuit aqua  
potestas.

καὶ ἀπὸ τῶν ἐμ-  
φύχου  
σώματος τῶν θρη-  
σκύνοντων  
ἀρετῶν τὸ ὅλον  
ἐπὶ τῇ ἐξουσίᾳ  
ἐν αὐτοῖς τῶν ἀν-  
θρώπων, τὸ κατὰ  
τὸν νόμον αὐτῶν, ἀν-  
αλλὰς γινέται δι-  
γμῶν Polib. histo-

riarum lib. 12. <sup>a</sup> Timaeus Καινοὶς ἰδιότῃς ἰσθῆται. <sup>b</sup> Tacitus Annal. lib. 2. <sup>c</sup> Idem annal.  
lib. 12. & 13. & Suetonius in Claudio c. 33. <sup>d</sup> Plutarchus in Mario. <sup>e</sup> Apuleius. <sup>f</sup> Mun-  
sterus Cosmographie lib. 2. <sup>g</sup> Remigius, a iudge in these cases reporteth of 900 exe-  
cuted in *Lorayne* for this offence of Witch-craft in the time of his gouernement.



*Lutherus in  
Genesin.*

since the sinceritie of Christian Profession hath decreased, and beene in a sort ecclipsed in the hearts of men: for the period of the continuance thereof (after it be once imbraced) in his first integrity, either for zeale of affection, or strictnesse of discipline, hath beene by some learned Diuines<sup>h</sup> obserued, to bee confined within the compasse of twenty yeares; and then afterward by degrees, the one waxed cold, and the other dissolute: which being so, it is not to be maruelled though the Diuell now begin to shew himselfe in these his instruments, as heretofore, though he cannot in the same measure, in respect of those sparkes of light which yet shine amongst vs. But of this so much now, because I shall haue afterward occasion further to enlarge this poynt.

*i Binsfeldius de  
confessionibus  
maleficorum,  
calleth this  
reason a most  
strong & con-  
uincing argu-  
ment.*

*k Ex malis mo-  
ribus bonæ nas-  
cuntur leges.*

*l Diogenes La-  
ertius lib. i. de  
vitiis Philosopho-  
rum in Solone.*

*Cicero in Orati-  
one pro Roscio  
Amerino.*

Againe, the policie of all States<sup>i</sup> haue prouided for the rooting out of these poysonfull Weedes, and cutting of these rotten and infected members; and therefore infallibly prouing their existence and being: for all<sup>k</sup> penall lawes looke to matters of fact, and are made to punish for the present, and preuent in future, some wicked actions already committed. And therefore *Solon* the Athenian making statutes for the settling of that Common-wealth, when a defect was found, that he omitted to prouide a cautelous restraint, and appoint<sup>l</sup> answerable punishmēt for such who had killed their parents, answered, He neuer suspected there were or would be any such. Wherefore to confirme the position set downe, God doth

not

not threaten to cast away his people for murther, incest, tyranny, &c. But Sorcery, *Leuit. 20. 6.* And *Samuel* willing to shew *Saul* the grieuousnesse of his disobedience, compareth it to witchcraft, *1. Sam. 15. 23.* The Holy Ghost also manifesting how highly God was displeased with *Manasses*, maketh this the reason, because hee gaue himselfe to Witch-craft, and to Charming, and to Sorcery, and vsed them who had familiar spirits, and did much euill in the sight of the Lord to anger him, *2. Chro. 33. 6.* And for this offence were the ten tribes of Israell led into captiuitie, *2. King. 17. 17.* <sup>m</sup> The twelue Tables of the Romans (the ancientest law they haue) by a solemne Embassage (sent for that purpose) obtained from *Athens*, & accounted as a Library of knowledge, do both make mention of such malefactors, & decreee a penaltie to be inflicted vpon them. <sup>n</sup> *Constantinus* and *Constantinus* thinke them worthy of some vnusuall death, as enemies of mankind, strangers from nature : ° and *Iulius Paulus* distinguishing the punishment according to the different qualitie of the offenders, pronounceth out of the then receiued opinions, that the better sort found guilty, were to dye (not determining the manner) those of meaner condition either to be crucified, or deuoured of wilde beasts.

Our ancient Saxon Kings before the<sup>p</sup> Conquest, haue in their municipall Lawes apparantly demonstrated what they conceiued of these so dangerous and diuellish persons. *Alucidas* keepeth the expresse words of God : *Fæminas sagas*

<sup>m</sup> Of these 12. Tables *Liue* in the 3 booke of his first Decad. *Dionysius Halicarnassens* 10 Booke of his History, & *Iohannes Rosimus* most fully in the 6 chapter of his 8 booke of Roman antiquities.

*Liuius. Plinius* lib. 34. cap. 5. *Cicero de legibus*, lib. 2. & *de orato primo.* <sup>n</sup> *Cod. lib. 9. titul.*

18. *lege multis magicis actibus.* ° *Sententiarum receptarum* lib. 5. cap. 25. *ad legem Corneliam de sicarijs & maleficis.* *Paulus Iurisconsultus.*

<sup>p</sup> *In apxoroquia siue de priscis Anglorum legibus* *Guilielmus Lambertus.*



*ne finito viuere.* Suffer not women Witches to liue. *Gunthrunus* and *Canutus* will haue them, being once apprehended (that the rest of the people might bee pure and vndefiled) sent into banishment, or if they abide in the kingdome (continuing their lewd practises) executed according to desert. So *Athelstane*, if they be conuicted to haue killed any, &c. And how the present estate standeth affected toward them, the sundry strict statutes in this case prouided, may giue any, not wedded to his owne stubbornenesse, sufficient and full satisfaction. Wherefore not to erect a Tabernacle, and dwell longer in perswading an vndeniable truth, that there bee Sorcerers and Witches, I leaue these Hellish Infidels, and proceede.

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### *The second Proposition.*

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*¶ Daxeus de  
fortiarijs, cap. 20*

**T**HE second Proposition: *¶* Who those be, and of what quality, that are thus ensnared of the Diuell, and vndermined by his fraudes. For resolution whereof, this may suffice. Those who either maliciously reiect the Gospell offered vnto them: or receiuing and vnderstanding the same, do but coldly respect, and carelessly taste it, without making any due estimation, or hauing any reuerent regard therof. In both which is a manifest and open contempt of God. For as he purposing to honour the first comming of his Sonne into  
the



the World, cloathed in the cloud of our flesh, which he assumed then, suffered many to be really possessed of Diuels, to bee lunatique, deafe, dumbe, blinde, &c. whom he might deliuer from these torments, and so make apparant his glory, and shew by these his miracles wrought, that hee was the promised Messias, *Esay* 35. 5. 6. And therefore Christ referreth those Disciples whom *Iohn* sent vnto him (doubting in respect of that base forme which he tooke, and demanding whether it was he that should come, or another to be looked for) vnto his Doctrine and Workes; and by them to bee instructed, whereof they were then both hearers and beholders, *Math.* 11. 3. 4. 5. So now comming in the dew of his grace, and hauing restored the light of the Gospell, and bestowed that vpon mankinde, as an especiall and vnvaluabable blessing, in his iustice giueth ouer the despisers thereof vnto the power of Sathan, whereby both others who contemne the same, might by their dreadfull example bee terrified, and the faithfull stirred vp to a respectiue thankfulnessse, for so great a mercy vouchsafed vnto them, and acknowledge their happinesse in being made partakers thereof, and by especiall fauour deliuered out of the tyranny of the Diuell: For this is one of the fearefull iudgements of God, and hidden from vs (as all are a great depth, *Psal.* 36. 6.) that those who receiued not the truth that they might be saued, should haue strong delusions sent vnto them, and bee giuen ouer to belieue Sathan and his lying signes, and false wonders, *2. Thess.* 2. 10.

*† Iaquerius in  
flagello Hereti-  
corum, cap. 18.*

*† Peccatum si  
citius poeniten-  
do non tergitur,  
iusto Iudicio  
omnipotens De-  
us obligatam  
peccantis men-  
tem, etiam in  
culpam alteram  
permittit cade-  
re, ut qui flendo  
& corrigendo  
noluit mundare  
quod fecit, pec-  
catum incipiat  
peccato cumula-  
re, Greg. Hom.*

*11. in Ezech.  
Augustinus lib.  
83. questionum  
questione 97. &  
Aquinas 1. 2.  
quest. 79. artic. 3  
& quest. 87. ar-  
tic. 2.*

*† Zanchius de o-  
peribus creatio-  
nis, part. 1 lib. 4.  
cap. 15. Danaus  
de sortiarijs cap.  
4. & Erasmus de  
Lamijs.*

*‡ De hoc more  
Alexander ab*

*Alexandro. Dierum genialium lib. 5. cap. 18. Suetonius in Caligula, cap. 27. Cicero de officijs  
lib. 2. Caelius Rhodiginus Antiquarum lectionum lib. 7. cap. 31. & olim militiae Tyrones  
manu erant & in cute signati Vegetius lib. 1. cap. 8. & 2. cap. 5. Prudentius in  
Hymno 10. & huius moris meminit, Ambrosius in funebri oratione pro Valentiniano.*

And thus consenting vnto sinne, and his sugges-  
tions, they are deprived of the helpe and assi-  
stance of God, and so disabled to resist all violent  
rushing temptations: for one offence, not being  
truely repented of, bringeth another, and at last  
throweth head-long downe into hell: and by this  
meanes man despising God his creator & redce-  
mer, and obeying the Diuell a professed enemy,  
and irreconciliable aduersary, not easie to be con-  
fronted, becommeth his seruant: for of whomso-  
euer any is ouercome, euen of the same is hee  
brought into bondage, 2. *Pet.* 2. 19. And the Apo-  
stle giueth as the reason why the heathen were so  
fottish Idolaters, and defiled themselues with ma-  
ny detestable and loathsome sinnes, † because  
when they knew God, they glorified him not as  
God, neither were thankfull, therefore God gaue  
them ouer to a reprobate sence, and vile affecti-  
ons to doe those things which were not conueni-  
ent, full of all vnrighteousnesse, *Rom.* 1. 24. 25.  
& 29 So these being enthralled, and deuoting  
themselues to the Diuell by a mutuall league (ei-  
ther expresse or secret) he brandeth with his mark  
for his owne, as in ancient time was an vse with  
Bondslaues and Captiues, and these bee *ἰσχυροὶ*,  
taken aliue in his snare, 2. *Tim.* 2. 26. and that in  
some part of the body, least either suspected or  
percciued by vs (for hee is a cunning concealer)  
as vnder the eye-lids, or in the palat of the mouth,



or other secret places: Wherefore some Iudges cause them, once being called into question, and accused, to be shaven all the body<sup>x</sup> ouer. And for the manner of impression, or branding, it is after this sort. The Diuell when hee hath once made the contract betweene himselfe and the Witch, and agreed vpon the conditions, what they shall doe, the one for the other, giueth her some scratch<sup>y</sup>, which remaineth full of paine & anguish vntill his returne againe: at which time hee doth so benumme the same, that though it be pierced with any sharpe instrument, yet is without any sence of feeling, and will not yeeld one droppe of bloud at all: a matter knowne by iust, often, and due triall.

And for the most part, hee bringeth these his slaues and vassailes obliged to him as his owne, to some desperate, Tragically, and disastrous end; and that either by the execution of Iustice for their demerits, or by laying violent hands vpon themselfes, or else God powreth vpon them some strange and extraordinary vengeance, or their Grand-maister whom they haue serued, dispatcheth them in such manner, as they become dreadfull and terrible spectacles to the beholders, whereof Histories will furnish vs with<sup>a</sup> varietie and plenty of examples: For the Diuell is a murdering spirit, desirous to doe mischiefe, swelling in pride, malicious in hatred, spitefull in enuy, subtil in craft; and therefore it behoueth every one resolutely to withstand his assaults, *Ephes. 4. 27.* and cautelously to decline his subtilties, and cunning

<sup>x</sup> Et insigne exemplum apud Gildemannum de Lamys lib. 3. cap. 10. sectione 38.

<sup>y</sup> Remigius in *Demonolatria* lib. 1. cap. 5. and citeth the confession of eight seuerall persons, acknowledging both to haue received the marke and in what part of the body.

<sup>z</sup> Peucerus de *principiis diuinationum generis* titulo de *Magia.*

<sup>a</sup> Philippus Camerarius in *Historicis medicationibus* part. 1. cap. 70. & 72.





uell their maister, to hurt Men and Beasts, and trouble the elements, by vertue of that contract & agreement which they haue made with him. For man they endamage both in body & mind: In body, for<sup>e</sup> *Daneus* reporteth of his owne knowledge, as an eye-witnesse thereof, that he hath seene the breasts of Nurces (onely touched by their hands) those sacred fountaines of humane nourishment so dried vp, that they could yeeld no milke; some suddenly tormented with extreame and intolerable paine of the Cholicke, others<sup>f</sup> oppressed with the Palsie, Leprosie, Gout, Apoplexie, &c. And thus disabled from the performance of any action, many tortured with lingring consumptions,<sup>s</sup> and not a few afflicted with such diseases, which neither they themselues who wrought that euill, could afterward helpe; nor be cured thereof by the Art and diligent attendance of most skillfull Physitians. I willingly let passe other mischiefs wrought by them, of which many things are deliuered in the Canon and Ciuill Lawes, in the Schoole-men, and Diuines both ancient and moderne.

In minde, stirring vp men to lust, to hatred, to loue, and the like<sup>h</sup> passions, and that by altering the inward and outward senses, either in forming some new obie&t, or offering the same to the eye

*Ubera matris fontes sanctissimi humani generis educatores vocat Phavorinus apud A. Gellium noct. Atticarum lib. 12.*

*cap. 1. Aretius problematum parte 2.*

*Loco 144. de Magia.*

*f Godlemanus de ueneficis lib. 1*

*cap. 7. 9. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26.*

*&c.*

*Exempla omnem fidem superantia Florentinae mulieris &*

*ulrici cuiusdam Neucefferi refert Langius epist.*

*Medicinalium lib. 2. Epist. 38.*

*e cuius ventriculo lignum ter-*

*res & quatuor cultri execti*

*sunt: eorum & iustae longitudinem*

*ponit. Lycosthenes lib. de prodigijs & ostentis quo modo huiusmodi in corporibus humanis inueniantur & qua ratione ingenerentur, aut eijciantur & an tribuenda haec maleficijs & diabolica arti Binsfeldius in commentario ad titulum Codicis de maleficis & Mathematicis pag. 510. h Gratianus in decretis, Caietanus in summula titulo de maleficio. Iaquerius in flagello fascinatorum, cap. 11. 12. Ioh. Nider in praeceptario, praecepto 1. ca. p. 11. Bodinus in Demonomania, lib. 2. cap.*



or care, or stirring the humors: for there being a neere coniunction betweene the sensitiue and rationall faculties of the soule, if the one bee affected, the other (though indirectly) must of necessity be also moued. As for example, when they would prouoke any to loue or hatred, they propound an obiekt vnder the shew and appearance of that which is good and beautifull, so that it may be desired and embraced: or else by representation of that which is euill & infamous, procure dislike and detestation. Neither is this any strange position, or improbable, but may bee warranted by sufficient authority; and therefore <sup>i</sup>Constantinus the Emperour doth expressely determine, all those iustly punishable who sollicite by enchantments chaste mindes to vncleannesse: And Saint <sup>k</sup>Jerome attributeth vnto them this power, that they can enforce men to hate those things they should loue, and affect that which they ought to auoyd: and the ground hereof hath his strength from the holy Scriptures: for the Diuell is able to enflame wanton<sup>l</sup> lust in the heart, and therefore is named, *the Spirit of Fornication*, *Osea* 4. 12. and vncleane, *Math.* 12. 43.

There is a very remarkeable example mentioned by *Jerome*<sup>m</sup>, of a maiden in *Gaza*, whom a yong man louing, and not obtaining, went to *Memphis* in Egypt, and at the yeares end in his returne, being there instructed by a Priest of *Aesculapius*, and furnished with Magicall Coniurations, graued in a plate of brasse, strange charming words, and pictures which he buried vnder the threshold

of

<sup>i</sup> Cod. lib. 9. titu-  
lo 18. Lege est  
scientia, hanc le-  
gem sugillat.

*Weirus de præ-  
stigijs demonum*  
lib. 3. cap. 38.

<sup>k</sup> In 3. Caput  
prophetę Nabu-  
ni, vide & Na-  
zianzenum in  
ἀπορίας, siue  
de arcanis vel  
principijs non  
procul à fine, &  
eius paraphra-  
sten Nicetam.

<sup>l</sup> Cassianus Col-  
lat. 7. cap. 32.

<sup>m</sup> In vita Hila-  
rionis,



of the doore where the virgin dwelt: by which meanes she fell into a fury, pulled off the attire of her head, flung about her haire, gnashed with her teeth, and continually called vpon the name of her loue.

The like doth <sup>n</sup> Nazianzene report of Cyprian before his conuersion (though some thinke it <sup>o</sup> was not he whose learned and religious writings are extant, and for the profession of his faith and doctrine was crowned with Martyrdome) but another of that name, toward *Iustina*, whom hee lasciuiously <sup>p</sup> courted, and vnlawfully lusted after. It were easie for me to instance this in many, and to adde more testimonies, but my intended purpose was, to set downe onely some few propositions, whereby the iudicious reader might be stirred vp to a deeper search, and further consideration of these things: for often they driue men to a madnesse, and other such desperate passions, that they become murtherers of themselves. But this alwayes must be kept in minde, as a granted and infallible truth, <sup>q</sup> That whatsoeuer the Witch doth, it receiueth his force from that society which she hath with the Diuell, who serueth her turne in effecting what she purposeth, and so they worke together as <sup>r</sup> associates.

Now concerning beasts they doe oftentimes kill them out-right, and that in sundry manner, or pine and waste them by little and little, till they be consumed.

For <sup>f</sup> the Elements, it is an agreeing consent of all, that they can corrupt and infect them, procure

<sup>n</sup> Oratione in laudē Cypriani eandem historiā refert Nicephorus Calistus lib. 5 cap. 27.

<sup>o</sup> Prudentius

<sup>p</sup> de passione Cy-

priani, unus erat

iuuenum doctis.

artibus sinistris,

fraude pudicitia

perstringere. &c

<sup>p</sup> Ouid. lib. 2. de

art. amand. phil-

tra nocent ani-

mis, vimq; fauo-

ris habent. Pro-

pertius lib. 4 in

lenam quandam

consultitq; strig-

es nostro de san-

guine & in me,

hippomenes fata

semina legit e-

qua. Vide de his

Aristotelem de

natura animalium

lib. 6. cap. 22.

Plinius 1. 8. c. 42.

<sup>q</sup> Aug. de doctr.

Christi. 1. 2. c. 22.

& 23.

<sup>r</sup> Iaquerius in

flagello heretico-

rum fascinatorum,

cap. 6. Martinus

de Arles, p. 438.

<sup>f</sup> Ioh. Gerson in

Trialogio Astro-

logie Theologi-

ca propos 16.

Palanus in Syn-

tagmate, l. 5. c. 13

tempests, to stirre vp thunder & lightning, moue violent winds, destroy the fruits of the earth: for God hath a thousand wayes to chasten disobedient man, and whole treasures full of vengeance by his Angels, Diuels, Men, Beasts. For the whole nature of things is ready to reuenge the wrong done vnto the creator.

It were but fruitlesse labour, and ill spent, to bestow long time in confirming this so manifest a truth, and not much better then set vp a candle to giue the Sunne light when it shineth brightest in mid-heauen: yet to satisfie those who doubt hereof, I will giue a small touch of an example or two.

\* Dion. Cassius  
Romane Historiæ,  
lib. 60. in  
Claudio.

\* *Curius Sidius* the Roman Generall in a battell against *Salebus*, Captaine of the *Moors*, in want of water, obtained such abundance of raine from Heauen by Magicall inchantments, that it not onely sufficed the thirst of his distressed Souldiers, but terrified the enemies in such sort, (supposing that God had sent helpe) as of their owne accord, they sought for conditions of peace, and left the field.

\* *Historia de gentibus septentrionalibus*, lib. 3. cap. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. &c.

The narration of *Olaus Magnus* which he maketh of his Northerne Wisards and Witches, would seeme to be meere fictitious, and altogether incredible (as of *Ericus*, who had the winde at command, to blow alwayes from that quarter to which he would set his hat. Or *Hagbert*, who could shew herselfe in any shape, higher or lower, as she pleased, at one time so great as a Giant, at another as little as a Dwarf: by whose Diabolicall practi-



ses mighty Armies haue beene dicomfited, and sundry others, except the truth hereof were without contradiction approued: by the experience of our owne Nauigators, who trade in *Finland*, *Denmarke*, *Lapland*, *Ward-house*, *Norway*, and other Countries of that Climate, and haue obtained of the inhabitants thereof, a certaine winde for twenty dayes together, or the like fixed period of time, according to the distance of place and strings tied with three knots, so that if one were loosed, they should haue a pleasant gale: if the second, a more vehement blast: if the third, such hideous & raging tempests that the Mariners were not able once to looke out, to stand vpon the hatches, to handle their tackle, or to guide the helme with all their strength; and are sometimes violently carried back to the place from whence they first loosed to sea; and many (more hardy then wise) haue bought their triall full deere, opening those knots, and neglecting admonition giuen to the contrary. *Apuleius* ascribeth to *Pamphile*, a Witch of *Theffalia*, little lesse then diuine power to effect strange wonders in heauen, in earth, in hell; to darken the starres, stay the course of riuers, dissolue mountains, and raise vp spirits, this opinion went for currant and vncontrouled. And without all question the Diuell<sup>x</sup> can do this and much more, when God letteth him loose. For he is stiled, *The Prince of the world*, *Ioh. 12. 31.* *A strong man armed*, *Luke 11. 21.* *Principality*, a ruler of darknesse, *spirituall wickednesse in high places*, *Ephes. 6. 12.*

<sup>x</sup> De potestate  
Demonum A-  
quinas in Sum-  
ma parte 1. quest  
110.

Binsfeldius in ti-  
tulum codicis de  
maleficis & ma-  
thematicis.

Zanchius de o-  
peribus creatio-  
nis, part. 1. lib. 4.  
cap. 10. 11. 12.

Danaus in Isa-  
goge, parte 2. de  
Angelis bonis  
& malis.

Thus he dismaied the heart of *Saul* (when he had



broken the Commandement of God) with dreadfull feare, and enraged his minde with bloudy fury, *1. Sam. 16. 14.* Entred into *Iudas*, prouoked him to berray his maister, dispaire and hang himselfe, *Math. 27. 3.* filled the heart of *Ananias* and *Saphira* with dissimulation, *Aët. 5. 3.* possessed the bodies of many really, as is manifest in the History of the Gospell. Our Sauour Christ assureth vs, that a daughter of *Abraham* was bound for 18 yeares by Sathan, with such a spirit of infirmitie, as bowed together, shee could in no wise lift vp her selfe, *Luk. 13. 11. 16.* He spake out of the *Pythonesse*, *Aët. 16. 17.* brought downe fire from heauen, and consumed *Iobs* sheepe 7000. and his seruants, raised a storme, strooke the house wherein his sonnes and daughters feasted with their elder brother, smote the foure corners of it, with the ruine whereof they all were destroyed, and perished: and ouerspread the body of that holy Saint their father with botches and biles from the sole of his foot to the crowne of his head. And hee

& Vltus pessimus  
 extensive quia  
 per totum cor-  
 pus diffusum, &  
 intensive, quia  
 in eo omnis mor-  
 bi & doloris  
 comprehensio  
 vide Mercerum  
 in cap. 2. Iobi.

2 Regula Theologorum. Quaecunque possunt Demones possunt etiam magi & malefici eius opera, hinc & illi tempestates excitant Virgilius Ecloga 4<sup>a</sup>.

Carmina vel cœlo possunt deducere Lunam :  
Carminibus Circe socios mutauit Vlyssis ,  
Frigidus in pratis cantando rumpitur Anguis, &c.  
*è Iactans Medea apud Ouidium lib.7. Metamorphoseon.*  
Cum volui ripis ipsas mirantibus ; amnes  
In fontes rediere suos, concussaue sisto,  
Stantia concutio cantu freta, nubila pello,  
Nubilaque iudico.

*Apud Virgilium Dido Annam sororem alloquitur.*

— Mihi Massilæ gentis monstrata sacerdos,  
Hæc se carminibus promittit solvere mentes  
Sistere aquam fluvij, & flumina vertere retro.

*Et Brachmanius Nonnus Dionysiacon, lib. 36.*

De Marco heretico & mago stupenda referunt Irenaeus contra hereses. lib. cap. 9. & Epiphanius 3. tom. lib. 1.

will

wil haue his seruants Wisards & Witches, coadjutors with him, and maketh them fit instruments to the performance of all wicked exploits, and this is when God pleaseth (of which I shall haue occasion to speake more afterward) to giue leaue, for his wil is the first supreme and principal cause of all things: and nothing can be done visibly in this Common-wealth here below of the creatures, but is decreed and determined so to be first in the high Court of Heauen, according to his vnsearchable wisdom and iustice, disposing punishments and rewards as seemeth good vnto himselfe. So *Pharaohs* <sup>a</sup> Magitians could turne water into bloud, their roddes into serpents, produce frogges, &c. But when it came to the base vermine, to make lice, they were pulled, and acknowledged their imbecillity, confessing, *Digitus Dei est*, <sup>b</sup> Gods finger is here, *Exod.* 18. 19. For if they could effect and bring to passe all mischievous designements without his sufferance, it would inferre a weakenesse, and conclude a defect of <sup>c</sup> power in him, as not sufficient to oppose their strength, supplant their force, and auoid their stratagems. And we must not imagine that the practitioners of these damnable Arts of which sexe soeuer, be they men or women, do performe those mischifes which they effect, by their owne skill, or such meanes as they vse, of which sort bee the bones of dead mens skuls, Toades, Characters, Images, &c. But thorough the cooperation of the Diuell; who is by nature subtile, by long experience instructed, swift to produce

<sup>a</sup> Iannes, Iambres, 2. Timot. 3

<sup>b</sup> Vide Nicolaum Lyranum in & additionem Burgensis, & replicam correctorij contra Burgensem.

<sup>c</sup> Diabolus Deo perpetuo aduersatur voluntate & actu non semper effectu: id est, Intentio semper est mala, etsi non semper ex animi sui sententia malum perficere possit Deo illud vertente in bonum. Aug. de Ciuit. Dei, lib. cap. 35 & de trinitate lib. 3. cap. 8.



*a Iaquerius in  
flagello heretico-  
rum fascinario-  
rum, cap. 15.*

*• Augustinus de  
diuinatione De-  
monum.*

*f Binsfeldius de  
confessionibus  
maleficorum  
unde magorum*

*operationes vim  
suam habent ple-  
nissimam. Aqui-  
nas Summa con-  
tra gentes, lib. 3.*

*cap. 105. & eius  
in eum locum*

*commentator  
Franciscus de  
fluestris.*

*h Tritemius in  
libro responsio-  
num ad questio-  
nes Maximilia-  
ni Imperatoris*

*questione.*

*Cyrillus Cate-  
chismo 4. ad il-  
luminatos, Ar-  
bitrium incita-  
re potest Diabo-  
lus cogere om-  
nino preter vo-  
luntatem non*

*potest.*

*i Tertul. de fuga  
in Persecutione.*

produceth strange works, & to humane vnderstan-  
ding admirable. Yet<sup>d</sup> he will haue those his vassals  
perswaded of some great benefit bestowed vpon  
them, whereby they are inabled to helpe and hurt,  
whom, how, and when they list; and all to indeere  
them, & by making them partakers in his villany,  
being strongly bound in his seruice, & stedfastly  
continued in the same, might more grieuously of-  
fend God, and bring iust condemnation vpon  
themselues. And for the greater, and more force-  
able inticing allurements hereunto, hee promiseth  
to giue and doe many things for their sakes, and  
reueale to them hidden secrets, and future euent,  
such<sup>e</sup> as he himselfe purposeth to doe, or know-  
eth by naturall signes shall come to passe. So  
then to conclude, in<sup>f</sup> euery Magicall action, there  
must be a concurrence of these three. First, the  
permitting will of God. Secondly, the suggesti-  
on of the Diuell, and his power cooperating.  
Thirdly, the desire and consent of the Sorcerer;  
and if<sup>s</sup> any of these be wanting, no trick of witch-  
craft can be performed. For if God did not suffer  
it, neither the Diuell, nor the Witch could pre-  
uaile to do any thing, no not so much as to hurt  
one<sup>b</sup> bristle of a Swine. And if the Diuell had  
not seduced the minde of the wicked woman, no  
such matter would haue beene attempted. And  
again, if hee had not the Witch to bee his in-  
strument, the Diuell were debarred of his pur-  
pose.

And as these euill spirits are in themselues dif-  
ferent in power, vnderstanding, and subtiltie: so

can their seruants do more or lesse through their meanes.

I conclude with that memorable speech of a most noble and learned man,<sup>1</sup> The Diuell is the Author and principall of all that euill which the Witch or Wisard committeth, not thereby to make them more powerfull, but to receiue them himselfe a companion of his impiety, cruelty, and hatred, which he beareth both to God and man; and also of eternall damnation: for indeed it is his worke, which the foolish and doating wifards coniecture is brought to passe by the words and inchantments which they vtter: and is very busie thus to colour his proceedings, which neuer come abroad in their owne likenesse, because he enuieth the blessed estate of man, and his eternall saluation purchased by the perfect obedience of Christ the Redeemer, and hateth that Image of God which hee beholdeth in him; much like the Panther,<sup>2</sup> who when hee cannot get hold of the man himselfe, is so inflamed with rage, that he teareth his picture in peeces violently which is cast vpon the ground to hinder his pursuit of the hunter who hath carried away his whelpes. And so as *Lactantius* speaketh, these vncleane spirits cast from heauen, wander vp and downe the earth, compasse land and sea, seeking to bring men to destruction as a comfort of their owne desperate and irrecoverable estate.

<sup>1</sup> *Iulius Scaliger de subtilitate, ad ut danum, ex-ercitatione 349 an venefici credulitas vim addat malefico.*

<sup>2</sup> *Basilus Homilia 21. in diuersos Scripturae locos sermone habito in non procul a fine. Lib. 2. qui est de origine erroris cap. 15.*



## The fourth Proposition.

¶ Nauarrus in  
Manuali con-  
fessarior. cap. II  
in primum de-  
calogi præcep-  
tum.

¶ Ioh. Wierus,  
totum hoc ficti-  
tium putat &  
fœdus imagina-  
rium, & impos-  
sibile putat, id-  
que passim in  
suis libris præci-  
puè autem de  
Lamijs, cap. 7. 8.

& 23. & de præ-  
stigys Demonũ,  
lib. 6. c. 27, & c.  
Hunc refutant  
eruditè. Binsel-  
de confessionibus  
maleficorum, &  
Thomas Erasmus  
de Lamijs.

° De his cere-  
monijs similia,  
Ier. cap. 34. 18.  
& multa Cyril-  
lus contra Iuli-  
anum & Proco-  
pius Gazæus in  
hunc locum &  
Augustinus.

¶ Palanus Syn-  
tagmatis Theo-  
logie, l. 2. cap. 8.

**H**AVING shewed before, that the practise of  
Witches receiue the being and perfection  
from that<sup>m</sup> agreement which is made betweene  
them and the Diuell, it now followeth necessari-  
ly, that we do enquire whether it bee possible that  
there may be any such agreement and league be-  
tweene them. The cause of doubt ariseth from the  
diuersity or disparity of their natures, the one be-  
ing a corporall substance, the other spirituall, vp-  
on which ground some<sup>n</sup> haue supposed that no  
such contract can passe: But we are to hold the  
contrary affirmatiue, both *de esse*, and *de posse*, that  
that there may be, and is, notwithstanding this  
difference of essence, a mutuall contract of the  
one with the other: for we read of sundry leagues  
between God & his people, and some with great  
solemnitie of ceremonies vsed in the same, a<sup>o</sup> *Ge-  
nesis* 15. 9. 17. and *Deut.* 5. 2. and in many other  
like places, yet is hee a simple essence,<sup>p</sup> free from  
all diuision, multiplication, composition, acci-  
dents, incorporeall, spirituall, and inuisible. But  
in Angelicall creatures, though there be no Phy-  
sicall composition of matter and forme, or a soule  
and a body; yet is there a metaphysicall, be-  
ing substances consisting of an act and possibili-  
ty, subiect and accidents. And further, betweene  
a spirit and a man, there is communication of the

vnder-

vnderstanding and will, the faculties and actions whereof must concur in euery couenant, which is nothing else but the consent of two or more persons about the thing.

And when the Diuell durst in expresse tearmes tender a contract to our blessed Sauour, tempting him in the wilderness, shewing him the kingdomes of the world, and the glory thereof, offered them with this condition, *All these will I giue thee, if thou wilt fall downe and worship me,* Mat. 4. 9. How much more then will hee aduenture vpon man, weake, wicked, and easie to be seduced? And who can doubt but that these bee the solempne and formall words of a bargaine, *Do vt des, do vt facias*, I giue this for to haue that giuen, I bestow this, to haue such, or such a thing done for me.

Now this couenant is of two sorts, secret or manifest; secret, when one indeuoureth or intendeth to do any thing by such meanes, which neither in nature, nor by institution haue power to produce the purposed effects, or be conioyned as necessary with other, which can bring the same to passe. Expresse, wherein consent is giuen either by writing, and words, or making such signes, whereby they renounce God, and deuote themselves slaues and vassals vnto the Diuell, hee promising, that vpon such condition they shall doe wonders, know future euent, helpe and hurt at their pleasure, and others like vnto these.

An example whereof wee may obserue in *Siluester* the second, one of the holy Fathers of

*Briffonius de formulis, lib. 6.*

*Solemnia pactorum sine obligatione verba*

*sunt: spondes?*

*spondeo. promittis?*

*promitto*

*dabis? dabo vt*

*facias, faciam.*

*Iustinianus in institutionibus, lib. 3. titu-*

*lo 16.*

*Hic Monachus*

*Floriacensis cano-*

*nobij diabolo*

*suadente, & e-*

*normiter insti-*

*gante si eius ob-*

*quijs & arti*

*magice obliga-*

*uit in tantum*

*quod Diabolo fe-*

*cit Homagium*

*cum pacto vt ei*

*omnia ad nutum*

*succederent, & e*

*Holcot. in cap.*

*17. lib. sapientie*

*lectione 19.*

*Platina in illius*

*vita. Vide &*

*Balerum de Ro-*

*manorum pon-*

*tificum actis in*

*lib. 5. in Sylue-*

*stro secundo, &*

*Robertum Bar-*

*nes. de vitis*

*pontificum Ro-*

*manorum.*



Rome, who did homage to the Diuell his Lord, and made fidelity to liue at his will and appoyntment, vpon condition to obtaine what he desired, by which meanes he got first the Bishopricke of *Rhemes*, after of *Rauenna*, and at the last the Papacie of *Rome*. Which Sea, though it will yeeld good plenty of such like presidents, and we may finde them in authentickall records of Histories, yet I content my selfe with this one.

† Godelmannus  
de magia tacita  
& illicita, lib. I.  
cap. 2. n<sup>o</sup>. 8. 9. 10  
&c.

† The formall tearmes of this couenant, as they bee set downe by some, are most dreadfull: and the seuerall poynts these.

To renounce God his Creator, and that promise made in Baptisme.

To deny Iesus Christ, and refuse the benefites of his obedience, yea to blaspheme his glorious and holy name.

To worship the Deuill, & repose all confidence and trust in him.

To execute his commaundements.

To vse things created of God for no end, but to the hurt and destruction of others.

And lastly, to giue himselfe soule and body to that deceitfull and infernall spirit, who on the other part appeareth to them in the shape of a man (which is most common) or some other creature, conferreth familiarly, and bindeth himselfe by many promises, that at all times called for, he will presently come, giue counsell, further their desires, answer any demaund, deliuer from prison, and out of all dangers, bestow riches, wealth, pleasure, and what not? and all without any labour and

paines.

paines-taking, in a word to become seruiceable to their will, & accomplish all their requests. And this is that which the Prophet *Esay* speaketh, chap. 28. 15. to make a couenant with death, and an agreement with hell. The consent of the ancient Fathers, if there were any doubt, might be added to the further clearing of this conclusion. For *Cyprian* directly affirmeth, that all those who vse magicall Arts, make a couenant with the Diuell, yea he himselfe, while he practized the same (before his calling to the light and true knowledge of God) was bound vnto him by an especiall writing, whereunto some subscribe with their owne blood, which was a vse among diuers nations, and a most sure bond of constant friendship, and inuiolable consociation. But herein these seduced wretches are deceiued: for these promises which he makes, are treacherous, and the obseruances whereunto he enioyneth and perswadeth them, as powerfull in producing such or such effects, meere deceits, and haue no qualitie in them to that purpose, but respecteth his owne ends, which are one of these foure.

First, to the mouing of them to the breaking of Gods law.

Secondly, to adore him with diuine worship and sacred rites.

Thirdly, to weaken their hope and faith in God.

Fourthly, to couer his owne fraud and treachery, that it may not be perceiued.

And when they finde this Impostor failing in the performance of his vowed promises, then he

*Siue illius sit, siue alterius iste liber. De duplici Martyrio. Aquinas 2<sup>a</sup>. 2<sup>a</sup>. quest. 96. Ioh. Gerson in Trilogio astrologie Theologice propositione 21. & de erroribus circa artem magicam, Diſco 2. u Camerarius meditationum historiarum, lib. 1. cap. 6. Bodinus exempla ponit Demonomanias. lib. 2. c. 4. Binsfeldius de confessionibus maleficorum. x Simile de Catilina refert Salustius. cum ad ius iurandum populares sceleris sui adigeret, humani corporis sanguinem vino permixtum in pateris circumtulisse, inde cum post execrationem omnes degustauissent, sicut in solemnibus sacris fieri consuevit aperuisse consilium suum, atque eo distitit fecisse, quo inter se magis fidi forent.*



¶ As that to Pope Siluester the second, his demand; who asked how long he should liue and enioy the Popedom? answered, vntil hee should say masse in Ierusalem; and not long after, celebrating the same in a Chapell of the Church dedicated to the holy Crosse in Rome, called Ierusalem, knew how he was ouer-reached, for there hee dyed. And another parallell to this, may be that of a certaine Bishop, much addicted to these vanities, hauing many enemies, and fearing them, asked the Diuell whether he should fly or not: who answered, *Non, sta secure, venient inimici tui suauiter, & subdentur tibi*. But being surprized, and taken by his aduersaries, and his castle set on fire, expostulating with him, that hee had deceiued him in his distresse, returned answer, that he said true, if his speech had been rightly vnderstood: for he aduised, *Non sta secure [id est fugias] venient inimici tui suauiter, & subdent vr, [id est ignem tibi]*. Such were the Oracles which he gaue, and whereof all histories do testifie. Holcot vpon the booke of Wisdome, and the rest before mentioned with him.

wanteth not his shifts: as that these defects are not to be imputed to him, or the weakenesse of the Art, but their owne negligence or ignorance, who haue not exactly obserued such directions, and in that manner they were deliuered: or mistooke his meaning, which is commonly deliuered in ambiguous tearmes, such as will admit a double construction: and herein appeareth the lamentable and woefull blindnesse of man, who is contented to swallow vp, and excuse many of his lies by one truth fore-told, which hath casually come to passe, whereas in other matters they make light account of, yea cōtemne infinit truths, if they shall finde by long search and diligent inquiry, but one falshood. Wherefore it behoo-ueth vs to be carefull Centinels ouer our selues, for that our grand<sup>r</sup> aduersary, proud, enuious, and not standing in the truth, repositeth all his possibility of victory in lies, and out of this poysoned sinke, deuiseeth all kinde of deceits, that so hee might deprive man of that happy and blessed estate which he lost by pride, and draw him into the society of his owne damnation: therefore it is a needfull caueat giuen by one of the ancient Fathers: Our enemy is old against whom wee

Serm. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Leo de collectis Serm. 40. & natiuitate Domini,

fight,

fight, fixe <sup>a</sup> thousand yeares fully compleat are passed since he began to oppose himselfe against vs; but if wee obserue the commandements of God, and continue stedfast in faith, apprehending Iesus Christ, then shall we be able to withstand all his violent assaults, and ouer-come him because Christ in whom we trust, is inuincible.

<sup>a</sup> In proemio, lib de exhortatione ad Martyrium. Cyprianus.

*The fift Proposition.*

**T**HE Diuell can assume <sup>a</sup> selfe <sup>b</sup> a body, and frame a voyce to speake with, and instruct and giue satisfaction to those who haue submitted themselues vnto him, and are bound to his seruice. For he lost not by his transgression and fall, his naturall <sup>c</sup> endowments, but they continued in him whole <sup>d</sup> and perfect, as in the good Angels, who abide in that obedience and holinesse wherein they were created, from whence a reason confirmatiue may bee thus framed, Good Angels can take vnto themselues bodies, as *Genes.* 18.2. *Iudg.* 13.3.6. therefore the euill also. Thus the Diuell hath appeared to some in the forme of a <sup>e</sup> Man, cloathed in purple, & wearing a crowne vpon his head: to others in the likenesse of a <sup>f</sup> Childe: sometime he sheweth himselfe in the

<sup>b</sup> Augustinus in 59. & 65. cap Lambertus Dauenus in suis Commentarijs: ad eundem.

<sup>c</sup> Binsfeldius de confessionibus maleficorum. Aquinas, Summa part. 1. quest. 51. art. 3. & 4

<sup>d</sup> In Demonibus ὁμοιωμένους σώματι & μορφῇ ἀνθρώπων, ὡς οὐδὲν ἄλλο ἐστὶν ἢ πνεῦμα καὶ σὰρξ καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλο.

<sup>e</sup> Dionisius Areopagita, de diuinis nominibus cap. 4. & si va-

cat licebit consulere in eundem Pachemere Paraphrasin & maximi scholia. Isidorus Hispalensis de summo bono. lib. 1. cap. 12. <sup>f</sup> Sulpitius Severus in vita beati Martini. Multa ex empla habet Bodianus in prefatione ad Demonomaniam. Hieronimus in vita Hilari-  
onis.

forme



8 Psellus de de-  
monum natura.

*h Binsfeldius de  
confessionibus  
maleficorum.*

*i Petrus Martyr  
in 28. caput. lib.*

*1. Samuelis Aquinas in Summa parte 1. quest 51. articul. 2.*

Hyperius locorū  
Theolog. lib.

k Hesiodus  
 ἄπρην καὶ κίερον  
 lib. I. Demonas  
 ait esse aëra  
 κακίμην. proclus  
 interpretatur  
 αἶθρην corpore  
 αἰερα

<sup>1</sup> *Julius Scaliger  
de subtilitate ad  
Cardanum exer-  
citatione 359.  
sectione 13.*

*m Socrates Hi-  
storie ecclesiast.  
lib. 7. cap. 38. &  
historia Tripar-  
lib. 12. cap. 9.*

**■ Chronicon  
Hirsangienſe.**

forme of foure-footed beastes, foules, creeping things, & roaring as a Lyon, skipping like a Goat, barking after the manner of a dogge, and the like. But<sup>h</sup> it is obserued by some, that he cannot take the shape of a Sheepe, or Doue, though of an Angell of light: 2.*Cor.* 11. 14. And further, <sup>i</sup> most of the learned doe hold, that those bodies wherein they doe appeare, are fashioned of the<sup>k</sup> aire, (though it is not to be denied, but they can en- into other, as the Diuell did into the Serpent, deceiuing *Eue*, *Gen.* 3. 1.) which if it continuing pure and in the owne nature<sup>l</sup>, hath neither colour nor figure, yet condensed receiua<sup>l</sup> into such, as wee may behold in the clouds, which resemble sometime one, sometime another shape, and so in them is seene the representation of Armies fighting, of beasts and Birds, houses, Cities, and sundry other kinds of apparations.

Histories of all can witnesse of the Diuels appearance in human<sup>m</sup> shape: thus a *Pseudo-Moses*, or *Messias* in *Crete*, perswaded the Jewes that it was he who brought their Fathers the Israelites out of Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea, and would conduct them also out of that land vpon the waters into *Iudea*. But many following his counsell, perished: the rest admonished by that destruction, turned back, accusing their folly; and when they made enquiry for this guide, to haue rewarded him according to his desert, was no where to be found, whereof they conceiued hee was a Diuell in Mans likenesse. And such an one<sup>n</sup> was that merry (but malicious) spirit, who walked

for

for a long time in Saxony, and was very seruiceable, clothed in country apparrell, with a cappe on his head, delighted to conuerse and talke with the people, to demaund questions, and answer what he was asked, hurting none, except iniured before, and then declared himselfe a right diuell in reuenge.

• The late Discoueries and Nauigations made into the west Indies, can furnish vs with abundant testimonies hereof, in which the mindes of the Inhabitants are both terrified & their bodies maffacted by his visible sight, and cruell tortures; yet (which is the opinion of many learned) he cannot so perfectly represent the fashion of a mans body, but that there is some sensible deformity, by which hee bewrayeth himselfe; as his feete like those of an Ox, a Horse, or some other beasts, clouen houed, his hands crooked, armed with claws, or talants like a vulture: or some one misshapen part, wherein (though hee delight in the shape of man, as most fitting for company and conference) is demonstrated, the great and tender loue of God toward vs, who hath so branded this deceiuer, that hee may bee discerned euen of those who are but of meane capacity, and so consequently auoyded. And as in his body assumed, so in his speech there is a defect, for it is weake, small, whispering, imperfect.

And thus it is reported of *Hermolaus Barbarus*, who inquiring of a spirite, the signification and meaning of a difficult word in *Aristotle*,

• *Vide nauigatione Monsieur de Monts, ad nouam Franciam, lib. 2. cap. 5. p. Binsfeldius de confessionibus maleficorum. Alexander ab Alexandro dierum Genialium, lib. 1. cap. 19. Remigius de Demonolatria, lib. 1. cap. 7. & apud Rhodigium antiquarum lectionum lib. 29. cap. 5. est exemplum dignum admiratione. 9 Remigius de demonolatrias lib. 1. cap. 8 & simile commemorat de Appione Grammatico Plinius naturalis histor. lib. 30. cap. 2. Nicephorus lib. 5. sub finem.*

• *in Italica.*



he hard a low hissing, and murmuring voyce gi-  
uing answere.

And this hee doth of set purpose, that so his  
sophisticall & doubtfull words might be the lesse  
perceiued.

Neither can this seeme strange to any, that  
the Diuell should speake, who brought a voyce  
from Trees to salute <sup>†</sup> *Apollonius*, and inspired  
that talkatiue Oke in *Dodona*, famous for the O-  
racles vttered there in Heroicall verse, to the  
Grecians, and to euery nation in his owne lan-  
guage, Chaldeans, Egyptians, Armenians, and  
other people who were led by him, and depended  
vpon his resolution.

† *Philostratus*  
de vita *Apollo-*  
*nij* lib. 6. cap. 13.

† *Sophocles* in  
*Trachinys* vo-  
cat δρυι πολυ-  
γλωσσον, quia ut  
dicit Scholiastes  
interpretatur  
ἦτοι πολλὰ μαν-  
τισμομένης, καὶ διὰ  
τὰ πολλὰ φθον-  
ομένης, ἢ τῆς δια-  
φορᾶς διαλέκτου  
χρυσόμοδον καὶ  
κατατὺν ἰσχυ-  
ρῶς μαντισμομένην  
γλωσσῶν. Et hinc  
*Argo* *Lycophron*  
in *Alexandra*  
sua λαλήσεν  
νοσῶν nominat

And thus the Image of *Memnon*, when the  
Sunne did shine vpon it, and his beames tou-  
ched the lips thereof, (which was at the arising in  
the East) speake vnto them who were present.

And considering, as hath beene mentio-  
ned before, that there passeth betweene the  
Witch and her Diuell, a compact, as with a  
Maister and a Seruant, it must therefore con-  
sist vpon prescript tearmes of commaunding,  
and obeying; and then of necessity is required  
a conuersing together; and conference where-  
by the same couenant may be ratified.

quæ ex *Didoneæ* quercu malum habuisse traditur quæ aliquoties locuta est ut apud *Apol-*  
*lonium* *Argonauticâ* quarto ideo & ἰουδαῖοι Ἄργα *Orpheus* appellat, vide plura apud *Strab-*  
*onem* lib. 17. & eius de hoc sono iudicium perpende. *Pausanias* in descriptione decem re-  
gionum veteris *Græciæ*, libro primo in *Atticis*. *Iuuenalis* *Satyro* 15. *Psellus* de *Dæmonum*  
natura. *Tacitus* libro secundæ *Annalium*.

The sixt Proposition.

God giueth, both the diuell, and his seruants the witches, power sometimes to trouble his owne children; so " Christ our blessed Sauour, <sup>u Iaquerius in flagello hereticorum fascinariorum, cap. 19. &</sup> was by Sathan carryed from place to place, *Math.* 4.5. *Iob*<sup>x</sup> in strange manner afflicted, and his children slaine, through his power, whom none can <sup>20.</sup> conceiue but were Gods seruants, religiously brought vp in his feare: and their father hath an honourable testimonie from the mouth of God himselfe, *Iob* 1. ver. 8. *Dauid*, a man according to Gods owne heart, *Acts* 13. 22. is by Sathan stirred vp to number the people, *1. Chron.* 21. 1. and that incuriosity and the pride of his heart, onelic to know the multitude of his subiects, *2. Sam.* 24. 2.

Whereas the Law appoynteth another end, *Exod.* 30. 12. which hee had now forgotten, the maintenance of the Ministerie and worshippe of God. And a daughter of *Abraham* is bound of the diuell eightene whole yeeres, had a spirit of Infirmitie, was bowed together, and could in no wise lift vp herselfe, *Lu.* 13. 11. 16. a grieuous calamity in respect of the author, the continuance, and the effect. But to handle this poynt a little more distinctly; It shall not be amisse to open first some reasons, why God doth giue this power to the diuel ouer the righteous his children sometimes, as also vpon the wicked and disobedient to his

<sup>7 Iosephus antichristi lib. 7. sectione sine capite iuxta Græcam editionem 10.</sup>



¶ Zanchius de o-  
peribus creatio-  
nis. part. 1. lib. 4.  
cap. 13. apud  
quem etiam plu-  
ra inuenies. Ter-  
tul. de fuga in  
persecutione  
has causas ponit  
permissionis di-  
vine, aut ex cau-  
sa probationis  
conceditur dia-  
bolo vis tentati-  
onis provocato,  
vel provocanti,  
aut ex causa re-  
probationis tra-  
ditur ei peccator  
aut ex causa co-  
hibitionis, ut A-  
postolus refert si-  
bi datum ange-  
lum Satanae.

¶ Beda in colle-  
ctaneis ex Au-  
gustino ad Epi-  
stolas Pauli.

¶ Iaquarius in  
flagello heretico-  
rum fascinario-  
rum, cap. 20.

¶ Ceolcenius

δοκιμαζομεν ημεις  
την ορθοδοξον π-  
στιν εις ελπιαν  
και παντα πορτα-  
μεν τα κυρια, και  
μη υποσυνομεν υ-  
πο το εχθρον, δια  
των φαντασιων  
πορτων και σατα-  
νικων εναντι των  
προφητειων υψι-  
μων θελων και υ-  
παικουσιν.

his will : And in the second place, why Witches haue the like leaue graunted vnto them. There- fore for his children.

The first reason of his permission is his inscrutable<sup>y</sup> wisdom, who out of euill bringeth good; so Paul had a minister of Sathan to buffet him, to keepe him in humility, that hee might not waxe proude and high-minded, in regard of those great mysteries which were reuealed when hee was taken into the third heauen, 2. *Corint.* 12. 4. Thus his temptation was a medicine preseruatue preuen- ting the disease of his soule, which otherwise hee might haue falne into, <sup>2</sup> for both himselfe, and the rest of the Apostles, though they were cho- sen vessells, yet were they also fraile and brittle, wandring yet in the flesh vpon earth, not trium- phing securely in heauen.

Second, It is <sup>2</sup> proceeding from his mercy and goodnes, for the trial of faith, obedience and con- stancy in such as belong to God : whereof there is an excellent patterne, and vnparaleld in *Iob* 1. 13. 14. &c. for by this triall is made a prooffe to examine whether wee doe continue firme vpon our square, and vnshaken, or no; and be not re- moued, eyther by the <sup>b</sup> seeming wonders of the diuell, or of his seruants and associats. And there- fore the Apostle pronounceth him blessed, who endureth temptation, for when hee is tryed hee shall receiue the crowne of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that loue him, *Iames* 1. 12. for he is faithfull, and wil not suffer vs to be temp- ted aboue that we are able, but with the temptati-

on also make away to escape, &c. *1. Cor. 10. 13.*

Third, Wee are admonished alwayes to stand in a readines, and be armed for to fight, prepared to withstand the diuell, knowing that God doth oftentimes giue him leaue to assault vs. Therefore we haue need to be furnished in all points, for we wrastle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkenesse of this world, against spirituall wickednesses in high places, *Ephes. 6. 11. 12.* And *1. Pet. 5. 8. 9.* be sober and vigilant, because your aduersary the diuell as a roaring Lyon walketh about, seeking whom he may deuoure. He <sup>d</sup> is no weake assaylant, and therefore heere by the Apostle are noted in him foure things: First, his power (a Lyon): Second, his hatred, and wrath in the word (roaring): Third, his subtilty (walking about) obseruing euery oportunitie and occasion to hurt vs: Fourth, his cruelty (deuoure) no contentment but in our ruine and viter destruction.

*Strigelius in  
explicatione lo-  
corum Theologi-  
corum Melan-  
thonis parte 3.  
titulo de cruce  
& calamitati-  
bus.*

Fourth, God would haue vs get the victorie against Sathan, and take knowledge, that Christ on our side fighteth for vs, through whom we triumph, and so are made more vndoubtedly assured of our saluation; and this is that which hee promised, *The seed of the woman shall bruiſe the head of the Serpent, Gen. 3. 15.* And the Apostle confirmeth, God shall tread downe Sathan vnder your feete, *Rom. 16. 20.*

*Augustinus de  
Genesi ad lite-  
ram, l. 11. c. 22.*

God suffereth the diuell to preuaile against the wicked, yet in the most Holy there is no iniustice *2. Chron. 19. 7.* But



<sup>f</sup> Hyperius in  
locis Theolog.  
lib. 2.

<sup>g</sup> Augustinus in  
locum consula-  
tur.

<sup>h</sup> Vide laque-  
rium in flagello  
hereticorum fas-  
cinariorum, cap.

23.

<sup>i</sup> Idem cap. 21.

First, <sup>f</sup> Herein is the declaration of his iustice, whereby hee punisheth obstinate sinners, & those who prouoke him to wrath, and will not repent: And thus it is sayd of the *Aegyptians*, whom no plagues could soften, that hee cast vpon them the fiercenes of his anger, and indignation, and trouble, by sending euill Angels among them, <sup>g</sup> *Psalm* 78.49. And when *Saul* had neglected the commandement of God, an euill spirit from the Lord troubled him, *1.Sam.* 16.14. Thus *Ahab* seduced by his false prophets descendeth into the battaile, and is slaine (contemning the words of *Micahiah*) in <sup>h</sup> whose mouthes the diuell was a lying spirit, who sent of the Lord, perswaded him and preuailed, *1.Kin.* 22.22.23.24.

Second, By affliction in the body or goodes, God <sup>i</sup> would quicken them vp to seeke the saluation of their soules. And so *Paul* gaue ouer a scandalous and incestuous person vnto the diuell, that he might be induced to forsake his sin, liue chastely heereafter, and be an edifying example to those whom he had offended: and this kinde of discipline was more soueraigne, then any other could haue beene, because mans nature abhorreth Sathan, and trembleth with feare once to conceiue that he should fall into his power and hands, and this is that which he writeth, aduising the *Corinthians* to deliuer him vnto Sathan, for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saued in the day of the Lord Iesus, *1.Cor.* 5.5. And in this sort he speaketh of two other deceiuers and blasphemers, *Hymeneus* and *Alexander*, I haue deliue-  
red



red them vnto Sathan, that they may learne not to blaspheme, 1. *Timothie* 1. 20. therefore this giuing ouer, was not to destruction, but for correction.

The last poynt propounded, was, That witches haue power granted to vex Gods owne children aswell as others, and preuaile ouer them; and that we doe enquire (so farre as we may, and is iustifiable) of the causes thereof, which may be these.

First, <sup>k</sup> This is permitted vnto them for the experience of their faith and integrity, so that by this means their loue towards God which lay hidden in the heart, is now made manifest. To be quiet and patient in prosperity, when we may enioy benefites at our owne pleasure, is a matter easily to be performed: But to endure the fire of Tribulation, that is the prooffe of a stedfast Christian, and in losses and sickenesse procured by such to bee silent, and submit our selues, this is the note of a faithfull man, & to choose rather obeying the law of God, to beare the infirmity of the body, then to ouer-flow in riches, and enioying health and strength offend the Lord.

*Trithemius in libel. 8. questionum quas illi dissoluendas proposuit Maximilianus Imperator, quest. 7.*

Second, this maketh a difference betweene the wicked and the godly: for thus the holy Apostle speaketh of the righteous, that by many afflictions they must enter into the kingdome of heauen, *Act.* 14. 22. And all that will liue godly in Christ Iesus suffer tribulations, 2. *Timoth.* 3. 12. for whom the Lord loueth, he doth chasten, *Prouer.* 3. 12. It is a Christians glory to vndergoe for Gods cause, any vexation whatsoeuer, whether wrought by the diuell,

\* Potestas diaboli concessa has causas ponit Ioannes Gerson de erroribus circa artem magicam, in dicto secundo.

1<sup>o</sup>. Obstinatum damnationem.

2<sup>o</sup>. Peccatorum purgationem, & penitentionem.

3<sup>o</sup>. Ad fidelium probationem, & exercitationem.

4<sup>o</sup>. Ad glorie dei manifestationem

diuell, or brought to passe by wicked men his<sup>k</sup> instruments; for when he is tryed, hee shall receiue the crowne of life, which God hath promised to those who loue him, *Iames* 1.12. But wee reade contrary of the wicked, they become olde, yea, are mighty in power, their seede is establihed in their sight with them, and their of-spring before their eyes, their houses are safe from feare, neyther is the rod of God vpon them, &c. they spend their dayes in wealth, and in a moment go downe into the graue, *Iob* 21.7.8.9. &c. Yet surely they are set in slippery places, sodainely destroyed and perished, & horribly consumed as a dreame when one awaketh: O Lord, thou shalt make their Image despised, &c. *Psal.* 73.18.19.20.

### The seventh Proposition.

**M**ORE women in a farre different proportion prooue Witches then men, by a hundred to one; therefore the Lawe of God noteth that Sex, as more subiect to that sinne, *Exodus* 22.18. It is a common speach amongst the Iewish Rab- bins, <sup>1</sup> many women, many Witches: And it should seeme that this was a generally receiued opinion, for so it is noted by *Pliny*, *Quintilian*, and others, neyther doth this proceede (as some haue thought) from their frailtie and imbecillity, for in many of them there is stronger resolution, to vndergoe any torment then can bee found in man,

\* In Perkei ab-  
abboth. Bodinus  
in consutatione  
opinionis wieri.  
*Plinius* in hist.  
natural. *Quin-*  
*tilianus* Institu-  
tionum oratori-  
arium lib.5. cap.  
10.



man, as was made apparant in that conspiracy of *Piso* against *Nero*,<sup>m</sup> who commannded that *Epicharis*, knowne to bee of the same faction, should first presently be set vpon the racke, imagining that being a woman, she would neuer beee able to ouercome the paine: But all the tortures that he or his could deuise, were not able to draw from her the least confession of any thing that was then objected against her. The first dayes question shee so vtterly contemned, that the very Chaire in which they conueied her from the place, did seeme as a Chariot wherein shee rid, triumphing ouer the barbarous vsage of their inhumane cruelty. The morrow following brought thither againe, after many rough encounters, remained so vnshaken, that wrath it selfe grew madde, to see the strokes of an obstinate and relenting fury fall so in vaine vpon the softer temper of a Woman: and at the last tooke a scarfe from about her necke, and by it knits vp within her bosome the knowledge shee had of that fact, together with that little remainder of spirit, whereof by force and violence they laboured to depriue her.

<sup>n</sup> Former ages haue likewise produced *Leena* an exemplary president of this sort, to all posterity, who when *Armodius* and *Aristogiton* hauing failed of the execution of their enterprise against *Hipparchus* a tyrant, had beene put to death, she was brought to the torture to be enforced to declare what other complices there were of the conspiracie. But rather then shee

G should

<sup>m</sup> Tacit. Annal. lib. 15.

*Muliebre corpus impar dolori.*

<sup>n</sup> Tertul. in Apologet. Crinitus de doctrina Christiana lib. 9. cap. 8.

should bee compelled thereunto, bit her tongue asunder, and spit it in the face of the tyrant, that though she would, yet could not now disclose them. In remembrance whereof the Athenians caused a Lyon of Brasse to bee erected, shewing her inuincible courage by the generosity of that beast, and her perseuerance in secrecie, in that they made it without a tongue. Therefore the learned haue searched out other causes thereof, and among the rest, obserued these as the most probable.

First, they are by nature credulous, wanting experience, and therefore more easily deceived.

o Binsfeldius de  
confessionibus  
maleficorum.  
Peucerus de  
precipuis dini-  
nationum gene-  
ribus in titulo  
de Dioualeia.  
Martinus de  
Arles.

Secondly, ° they harbour in their breast a curious and inquisitiue desire to know such things as be not fitting and couenient, and so are oftentimes intangled with the bare shew and visard of goodnesse. As the Lady of Rome, who was importune, and vehemently instant vpon her husband, to know what was debated of that day at the Councell Table. And when he could not be at rest, answered, The Priests had seene a Larke flying in the aire with a golden Helmet on his head, and holding a speare in his foot. Scarce she had this, but presently she told it to one of her maids: she to another of her fellowes, so that report was spread through the whole Citie, and went for currant vntill it receiued a checke: But all are not of this mould.

Thirdly, their complection is softer, and from hence more easily receiue the impressions offered by the Diuell; as when they be instructed and gouerned



governed by good Angels, they prove exceeding religious, and extraordinarily devout: so consenting to the suggestions of euill spirits, become notoriously wicked, so that there is no mischief above that of a woman, *Eccles. 25. 13. &c.*

Fourthly, in them is a greater facility to fall, and therefore the Diuell at the first tooke that advantage, and set vpon *Eue* in *Adams* absence, *Genes. 3. 3.*

Fifthly, this sex, when it conceiue wrath or hatred against any, is vnplacable, possessed with vn-satiabie desire of reuenge, and transported with appetite to right (as they thinke) the wrongs offered vnto them: and when their power herein answereth not their will, and are meditating with themselves how to effect their mischieuous projects and designs, the Diuell<sup>p</sup> taketh the occasion, who knoweth in what manner to content ex-ulcerated mindes, windeth himselfe into their hearts, offereth to teach them the meanes by which they may bring to passe that rancor which was nourished in their breasts, and offereth his helpe and furtherance herein.

*p Exemplum apud Binsfeldium reperies de confessionibus maleficorum, pag. 32*

Sixthly, they are of a slippery tongue, and full of words: and therefore if they know any such wicked practises, are not able to hold them, but communicate the same with their husbands, children, consorts, and inward acquaintance; who not consideratly weighing what the issue and end thereof may be, entertaine the same, and so the poyson is dispersed. Thus *Dalilah* discovered her husbands strength where it lay, vnto the Philis-

stines; and procured his infamous and disastrous ouer-throw. *Iudg.* 16. 18.

Hitherto in some Popositions I haue set downe the originall of witch-craft, and other such curious and vnlawfull Arts, the quality of the persons agents in the same, the power of the Diuell, and his confederates, the league of association which enterchangeably passeth betweene them, his assuming a body, and framing a voice for the performance of that businesse; that women, and why, are most subiect to this hellish practise. Now the truth of all these shall appeare by exemplary proofes in the Narration following.

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A true Narration of some of those  
*Witch-crafts which Marie wife of*  
 Henry Smith Glouer did practise, and of the  
*hurts she hath done vnto sundry persons by the same:*  
 confirmed by her owne Confession, and from the pub-  
*like Records of the examination of diuers vpon their oaths:*  
 of her death, and execution for the same, which  
*was on the twelfth day of Ianuarie*  
*last past.*



*M*arie wife of Henrie Smith,  
 Glouer, possessed with a  
 wrathfull indignation a-  
 gainst some of her neigh-  
 bours, in regard that they  
 made gaine of their buying  
 and selling Cheese, which  
 shee (vsing the same trade)  
 could not doe, or they better (at the least in her  
 opinion) then she did, often times cursed them,  
 and became incensed with vnruly passions, armed  
 with a settled resolution, to effect some mischie-

uous proiects and designes against them. The diuell who is skilfull, and reioyceth of such an occasion offered, and knoweth how to stirre vp the euill affected humours of corrupt mindes (she becoming now a fitte subiect, through this her distemper, to worke vpon, hauing the vnderstanding darkened with a cloude of passionate, and reuengefull affections) appeared vnto her amidst

- Proposition 4. these discontentments, in the shape of a blacke man, and willed that she should continue in her malice, enuy, hatred, banning and cursing; and then he would be reuenged for her vpon all those
- Proposition 5. to whom she wished euill: and this promise was vttered in a lowe murmuring and hissing voyce: and at that present they entred tearmes of a compact, he requiring that she should forsake God, and depend vpon him: to which she condescended in expresse tearmes, renouncing God, and betaking herselfe vnto him. I am sparing by anie amplification to enlarge this, but doe barely and nakedly rehearse the trueth, and number of her owne words vnto mee. After this hee presented himselfe againe at sundry times, and that to this purpose (as may probably bee coniectured) to hold her still in his possession, who was not able, eyther to looke further into these subtilties, then the superficiall barke thereof, or not discover the depth of his designements, and in other formes, as of a mist, and of a ball of fire, with some dispersed spangles of blacke; and at the last in prison (after the doome of iudgement, and sentence of condemnation was passed against her) two seuerall times,



times, in that figure as at the first: only at the last he seemed to haue a paire of horns vpon his head, and these as shee came downe from her chamber, being sent for to conferre with some learned and reuerend Diuines, by whose prayers and instructions she might be brought to the sight and confession of her grievous offences, be regained and rescued out of his hands, brought to repentance, and the fauour of God, assured hope of mercie, and eternall life, and at these times he wished her to confesse nothing to any of them, but continue constant in her made promise, rely vpon him, and hee would saue her. This was too high a straine aboue his reach to haue made it good, and a note of his false descant, who hauing compassed this wretched woman, brought her to a shamefull and vntimely end; yet doing nothing herein contrary to his malicious purposes, for hee was a murderer from the beginning, *Iohn 8.44.* Now then, to descend to particulars, and the effects of this hellish association made. Being thus ioyned and linked together in a reciprocall league, he beginneth to worke for her, in procuring the mischiefe of those whom she maligned, whereof these

few acknowledged by her selfe, may  
yeeld some taste of more,  
though concealed.

*Her*

## ¶ Her wicked practise against John Orkton.

**T**He first who tasted of the gall of her bitterness was *John Orkton* a Sailer, and a man of strong constitution of body, who about some five yeares sithence, returning out of Holland in the Netherlands, or low Countries beyond the Seas, happened, for some misdemeanors committed by him to strike the sonne of this *Mary Smith* (but in such sort as could not in reason bee offensively taken) who hearing his complaint, came forth into the streete, cursing and banning him therefore, as oftentimes shee did, dwelling in the next adioyning house, and wished in a most earnest and bitter manner, that his fingers might rotte off; wherevpon presently hee grew weake, distempered in stomacke, and could digest no meate, nor other nourishment receiued, and this discrasie or feeblenesse continued for the space of three quarters of a yeare; which time expired, the fore-mentioned grieffe fel downe from the stomacke into his hands and feete, so that his fingers did corrupt, and were cut off; as also his toes putrified & consumed in a very strange and admirable manner. Neuerthelesse, notwithstanding these calamities, so long as hee was able, went still to Sea, in the goods and shippes of sundry Merchants (for it was



was his onely meanes of liuing ) but neuer could make any prosperous voyage ( as then other men did ) eyther beneficiall to the Owners, or profitable to himselfe. Whereupon , not willing to bee hindrance to others , and procure no good for his owne maintenance by his labours , left that trade of life , and kept home , where his former griefe encreasing , sought to obtaine help and remedie by Chirurgery , and for this end went to Yarmouth, hoping to be cared by one there, who was accompted very skilfull : but no medicines applyed by the Rules of Arte and Experience, wrought any expected or hoped for effect : for both his hands and feete , which seemed in some measure euery euening to be healing, in the morning were found to haue gone backward , and growne far worse then before : So that the Chirurgicalian perceiuing his labour to bee wholly frustrate, gaue ouer the cure , and the diseased patient still continueth in a most distressed and miserable estate , vnto the which hee was brought by the hellish practises of this malicious woman , who long before openly in the streetes , ( whenas yet the neighbours knew of no such thing ) reioycing at the calamity, said, *Orkton* now lyeth a rotting . And no maruell though she could tell that which herselfe had done , and her good maister would not suffer to be concealed , but that the testimony of her owne tongue should remayne as a record towards her further detection and condemnation, who sought meanes of her voluntary accord to be reconciled with the wofull distressed

H

party,

party, but this was nothing else but to plaister over and disguise her former inhumane and barbarous actions, for no reliefe at all followed thereof: <sup>a</sup> Proposition 3. for oftentimes, as hath beene prooved, the <sup>a</sup> diuells and witches his instruments doe cause such diseases, which neyther the one, nor the other can remoue againe. And this is not any vaporous imagination, but a most vndoubted trueth. For now this poore man continueth still in a lamentable estate, griefe, and paines encreasing, without hope of helpe, except God in the abundance of his tender mercies vouchsafe to grant comfort and deliuerance.

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*¶ Her wicked practise against Elizabeth Hancocke.*

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**T**He second person distressed, by this witch, was *Elizabeth Hancocke*, then widdow, now wife of *James Scot*: the maner, occasion, and proceeding of whose dealing against her was thus. She comming out of the towne from the shoppe of one *Simon Browne* a Silkeman, vnto whom she had carried home some worke, which was by him put out vnto her; *Henry Smith*, as shee passed by his doore, tooke her by the hand, and smilingly said, that his ducke (meaning his wife, this woman of whom we now speake) tolde him that shee had stolne her henne; which wordes shee then passed over,



ouer, as onely spoken in merriment, and denying the same : in the meane time, as they were interchanging these words, shee came herselfe, and directly charged her with the henne, and wished that the bones thereof might sticke in her throat, when she should eate the same : which speech also she made no great reckoning of, supposing them to be but words of course, and might bee vttered in ieast. Neuerthelesse, afterward better considering of the same, conceiued much griefe, to bee counted one of so euill quality and disposition, and espying that hen for which she was accused, to sit vpon the hatch of her shoppe doore, went to her, and mooued with the indignity of that flaunder, and vniust imputation, told her in some passion and angry manner, that it was a dishonest part thus to blemish the good name of her neighbors with so vntrue aspersions : whereupon, breaking foorth in some violence, she wished the pox to light vpon her, and named her prowde *linny*, prowde flurts, and shaking the hand, bade her go in, for she should repent it; and the same night, within three or foure houres after these curses and imprecations vttered, she was taken and pinched at the heart, and felt a sodaine weaknesse in all the parts of her body; yet her appetite to meate nothing diminished, and so continued for the space of three weekes; in which time, when she was any thing well, would come to the doore, and leane vpon the stall, whom this *Marie Smith* seeing, did euer banne, adding the former curse, the poxe light vpon you, can you yet come to the doore?

and at the end of these three weekes, beeing but very weake, came foorth as shee vsed to doe, to take the ayre, this mischieuous woman most bitterly cursed her againe, whereupon she went into the house, fell into such a torturing fit, and nipping at the heart, that she fainted, hardly recoverable for the space of halfe an houre, and so grievously racked and tormented through all parts of her body, as if the very flesh had beene torne from the bones, by the violent paine whereof she could not refraine, but tore the haire from off her head, and became as one distraught, bereaued of sence, and vnderstanding: And the same night the bed whereon she lay, was so tossed, and lifted vp and downe, both in her owne feeling, and in the sight of others then present beholders of her extremities, by the space of one houre or more, that she was therewith exceedingly terrified, & did thinke oftentimes in her sleepe, that she did see this *Mari Smith* standing before her. And this fit continued sixteene houres, during which passion *Edward Drake* her father came to the Towne, touched with griefe for this torture of his daughter (as parents hearts are relenting and tender, and naturall compassion is soone stirred vp in them) tooke her vrine, went to one for his aduice (whose fact herein is no way instifiable, and argued but a small measure of religion, and the knowledge of God in him.) who first tolde vnto him the cause of his comming, that is, to seeke help for his daughter, and then added, that she was so farre spent, that if hee had stayed but one day longer, the woman

who

who had wrongd her, would haue spent her heart, and so become vnreouerable, and thereupon shewed him her face in a Glasse; and further, opened the beginning cause of falling out, which was for a hen, which before this, *Drake* neyther knew nor heard of, and then gaue his counsell for remedy, which was the matter sought for & desired, & that was in this order. To make a cake with flower from the Bakers, & to mix the same instead of other liquor, with her own water, and bake it on the harth, wherof the one halfe was to be applyed and laid to the region of the heart, the other halfe to the back directly opposit; & further, gaue a box of ointment like triacle, which must be spread vpon that cake, and a powder to be cast vpon the same, and certaine words written in a paper, to be layd on likewise with the other, adding this caueat, that if his daughter did not amend within six houres after the taking of these receits, then there was no health or recouery to be looked for: & further, wished silence to be kept herein, for the womā who had done this, would know any thing.

And being thus furnishing with instructions, and returning home, as hee alighted from his horse to enter into that house where his daughter lay (being the next vnto *Mary Smiths*) shee then stood leaning ouer her shop window, whom hee knew to be that person, which was shewed vnto him, and she cursed him passing by, and told his daughter that her Father had beene with a *Wissard*. And the next day following after they had put in practise the directions giuen, she affirmed



to diuers of the neighbours, that *Drake* the afflicted womans father, had beene to aske counsell, and made a Witch Cake, but shee would learne how they came to haue that knowledge: yet for the present she found helpe, and was freed from the languishing and other conflicts wherewith she was assaulted by the space of fixe weekes.

After this, being married vnto *James Scot*, a great Cat which kept with this Witch (of whose infernall both purposes and practises wee now speake) frequented their house; and vpon doing some scathe, her husband moued therewith, thrust it twice through with his sword: which notwithstanding those wounds receiued, ran away: then he strooke it with all his force vpon the head with a great pike staffe, yet could not kill her; but shee leapt after this vpward almost a yard from the boords of that chamber where she now was, and crept downe: which hee perceiuing, willed his lad (a boy of foureteene yeares) to dragge her to the muck-hill, but was not able; and therefore put her into a sacke, and being in the same, still moued and stirred. Whereupon they put her out againe, and cast her vnder a paire of staires, purposing in the morning, to get more helpe, and carry her away; but then could not be found, though all the doores that night were locked, and neuer heard what afterward became thereof.

Not long after, this Witch came forth with a Birchin broome, and threatned to lay it vpon the head of *Elizabeth Scot*, and defiled her cloathes therewith, as she swept the street before her shop  
doore

doore, and that in the sight of her husband, who not digesting this indignity offered vnto his wife, threatned that if she had any such fits, as she endured being a Widow before marriage, hee would hang her. At this she clapped her hands, and said hee killed her Cat. And within two or three dayes after this enterchange of words betweene them, his wife was perplexed with the like paine and griefe at her heart, as formerly she had beene; and that for two dayes and a night: wherefore her husband went to this wrathfull and malicious person, assuring that if his wife did not amend, hee would accuse her to the Magistrate, and cause the \* rigor of the law to be executed vpon her, which is due to such malefactors. These things were done some three yeares sithence. The party troubled yet liueth, but in no confirmed health, nor perfect soundnesse of body.

\* *Witches can by no meanes bee so easily brought to recall the mischiefe they haue done, as by threats and stripes. Remigi- us in Dæmonolatria, lib. 3. c. 3.*

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*Her wicked practises against  
Cicely Balye.*

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**A** Third subiect wherenpon this wrathfull womans anger wrought, was *Cicely Balye*, then seruant to *Robert Coulton*, now wife of *William Vaux*, who sweeping the street before her maisters doore vpon a Saturday in the euening, *Mary Smith* began to pick a quarrell about the manner of sweeping, and said vnto her she was a great fat-tail'd sow, but that fatnesse should shortly be pul-  
led

led downe and abated. And the next night being Sunday immediatly following, a Cat came vnto her, sate vpon her breast, with which she was grievously tormented, and so oppressed, that she could not without great difficulty draw her breath, and at the same instant did perfectly see the said *Mary* in the chamber where she lay, who (as she conceived) set that Cat vpon her, and immediatly after fell sicke, languished, and grew exceeding leane; and so continued for the space of halfe a yeare together, during the whole continuance in her maisters seruice; vntill departing from him, she dwelt with one *Mistres Garoway*, and then began to be amended in her health, and recouer of her former pining sicknesse: for this Witch had said, that so long as she dwelt neere her, she should not be well, but grow from euill to worse.

Thus euery light trifle (for what can bee lesse then sweeping of a little dust awry?) can minister matter to set on fire a wrathfull indignation, and inflame it vnto desired reuenge, the Diuell being willing to apprehend and take hold vpon such an occasiō, that so he might do some pleasing office to his bond-slaue, whō she adored in submisse manner, vpon her knees, with strange gestures, vttering many murmuring, broken, and imperfect speeches, as this *Cicely* did both heare and see, there being no other partition between the chamber wherein shee performed these rites, and the house of her maister with whom she then dwelt, but only a thin feeling of boord, through a cranny or rift whereof she looked, listned attentiuely  
vnto



vnto her words, and beheld diligently her behaviour, and might haue seene and heard much more, but that she was with the present spectacle so affrighted, that shee hastned downe in much feare and distemper.

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*Her wicked practise against  
Edmund Newton.*

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**T**He fourth endammaged by this Hagge, was one *Edmund Newton* : the discontentment did arise from this ground ; Because hee had bought seuerall bargaines of Holland cheese, and sold them againe, by which she thought her benefit to be somewhat impaired, vsing the like kinde of trading. The manner of her dealing with him was in this sort. At euery seuerall time of buying Cheese he was grievously afflicted, being thrice, and at the last, either she or a spirit in her likeness did appeare vnto him, and whisked about his face (as he lay in bed) a wet cloath of very loathsome sauour ; after which hee did see one cloathed in russet with a little bush beard, who told him hee was sent to looke vpon his sore legge, and would heale it ; but rising to shew the same, perceiuing hee had clouen feet, refused that offer, who then (these being no vaine conceits, or phantasies, but well aduised and diligently considered obseruances) suddenly vanished out of sight. After this she

sent her Impes, a Toad, and Crabs crawling about the house, which was a shoppe planchered with boords, where his seruants (hee being a Shoemaker) did worke: one of which tooke that toad, put it into the fire, where it made a groaning noyse for one quarter of an houre before it was consumed; during which time *Mary Smith* who sent it, did endure, (as was reported) torturing paines, testifying the felt grieffe by her out-cryes then made.

The sicknesse which he first sustained, was in manner of a madnesse or phrensie, yet with some interposed release of extremity: so that for thirteene or foureteene weekes together hee would be of perfect memory, other times distracted and deprived of all sence. Also the ioynts and parts of his body were benumbed, besides other paines and greifes from which hee is not yet freed, but continueth in great weakenesse, disabled to performe any labour, whereby hee may get sufficient and competent maintenance. And by the counsel of some, sending for this woman by whom hee was wronged, that he might scratch her (for this hath gone as currant, and may plead prescription for warrant a foule sinne among Christians to thinke one Witch-craft can drive out another) his nailes turned like feathers, hauing no strength to lay his hands vpon her.

And it is not improbable but that she had dealt no better with others then these aboue mentioned. For *M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Yonges* of London, Fishmonger, reported vnto me, that after the demand of

a debt due vnto M<sup>r</sup> *John Mason*, Silkeman of the same Citie, whose Widow hee married, from *Henry Smith* Glouer her husband, some execrations and curses being wished vnto him, within three or foure dayes (being then gone to Yarmouth in Norfolke vpon necessary businesse) there fell sicke, and was tortured with exceeding and massacring griefes, which by no meanes (hauing vsed the aduise of sundry learned and experienced Physitians in Norwich) could in any part be mitigated, and so extraordinarily vexed thirteene moneths, was constrained to go on Crutches, not being able to feed himselfe, and amended not before this mischieuous woman was committed to prison (accused for other wickednesses of the like kinde) at which time (so neere as he could coniecture) he then receiued some release of his former paines, though at the present when hee made this relation, which was at Candlemas last past, had not perfectly recouered his wonted strength: for his left hand remained lame, and without vse.

But thus much by the way onely, omitting how before this accident a great Water-dogge ranne ouer his bed, the doore of the chamber where he lay being shut, no such one knowne (for carefull enquiry was made) either to haue been in that house where hee lodged, or in the whole Towne at any time.

I doe not insist vpon this, because shee did not nominate him or any other vnto vs, but onely those foure already expressed: and for the wrongs



done to them, she craued mercy at Gods hands, as for all other her sins, and in particular for that of Witch-craft, renounced the Diuell, embraced the mercies of God purchased by the obedience of Iesus Christ, and professed that her hope was onely by his suffering and passion to bee saued. And all these, that is to say, her former grievous offences committed against God, and his people, her defiance of the Diuell, and reposing all confidence of saluation in Christ Iesus alone, and his merits, she in particular maner confessed openly at the place of execution, in the audience of multitudes of people gathered together (as is vsuall at such times) to be beholders of her death. And made there also profession of her faith, and hope of a better life hereafter; and the meanes whereby she trusted to obtaine the same, as before, hath beene specified. And being asked, if she would be contented to haue a Psalme sung, answered willingly that she desired the same, and appointed it herselfe, *The Lamentation of a Sinner*, whose beginning is, *Lord turne not away thy face, &c.* And after the ending thereof thus finished her life: So that in the iudgement of charity we are to conceiue the best, and thinke shee resteth in peace, notwithstanding her heynous transgressions formerly committed: for there is no maladay incurable to the Almighty Physitian, *Esay* 1. 18. *Ezech.* 33. 11. Therefore *Caine* did iniury to God, when conuicted of the barbarous and vnnaturall murder of his righteous brother, cryed out that his sinne was greater then could be forgiuen, *Gen.* 4. 13  
for

For Gods mercy is greater then mans misery can be. <sup>a</sup> *Budeus de asse lib. 5.*  
 And euen for the like vnto this very fact, we haue <sup>b</sup> The Ephesi-  
 a booke case, already adiudged, and ouer-ruled in ans were infa-  
 those *Ephesians*, who brought their coniuring mous for their  
 bookes, sacrificed them in the fire, æstimated at Magicall pra-  
 the<sup>a</sup> value of nine hundred pounds of our mo- *etises, Appollo-*  
 ney, repented of their<sup>b</sup> sinnes, and obtained mer- *nius professing*  
 cy, *Acts 19. vers. 19.* the same in the  
 Citie, so that it  
 grewe into a  
 prouerb, *reçu-*

*ματα Εφίμα*, the Ephesian letters, which were certaine Characters and wordes, by  
 vertue whereof they obtained good successe in all businesse, victory against others,  
 euasion and escape from dangers; and as we reade in *Suidas*, a Milesian armed with  
 these letters, ouer-came thirty Champions in the games of *Olimpus*, but being re-  
 moued by the Magistrate, hauing intelligence thereof, himselfe was subdued. Of  
 these see *Athenęus Deipnosophiston lib. 12.* *Hesichius* in his *Lexicon.* *Plutarchus questio-*  
*num conuivialium, lib. 7. cap. 5.*

## ¶ The eight Proposition, and first consequent.

**N**OW then from this premised narration, these  
 two corollaries or consequents do necessa-  
 rily follow.

It is not lawfull for any Christian to consult  
 with a witch or wisard, or goe to them for helpe.  
 God himselfe, whose commandement is and must  
 be the rule of our life & direction hath forbidden  
 it, *Leuit. 19. 31.* and *20. 6.* *Deuter. 18. 10. 11.* And  
 the Imperiall lawes, haue beene in this case verie  
 respectiue. <sup>a</sup> Therefore, *Leo* the Emperour & *L. Nemo,*

<sup>a</sup> *Cod lib. 9. ti-  
tulo 18. L. nullus  
& L. Nemo,*

<sup>b</sup> *Gratianus de-  
cretorum parte  
2. caus. 26-qu. 7.*

<sup>c</sup> *Daneus in di-  
alogo de sortia-  
rijs cap. 6.*

<sup>d</sup> *Martinus de  
Arles in tracta-  
tu de superstitio-  
nibus. Iohannes  
Gerson de erro-  
ribus circa ar-  
tem magicam  
articulo 5.*

<sup>e</sup> *In curing  
diseases the di-*

uell respecteth two ends : the one, that he might seeme to keep the promise he hath made with those his slaues, and retaine them in their malicious practises and infidelity : the other, that hee might draw their faith and trust from God, who are thus healed by witches and wifards his instruments, and cast them downe headlong into destruction of their soules : or if they misse of hoped reliefe which often times so cometh to passe, God withstanding their attempts, then to wound their consciences, and driue them to despaire.

straitly enioyneth, that none should resort vnto them, and stileth their aduice nothing but meere impostures and deceit; and in the <sup>b</sup> Decrees collected by *Gratian*, the teachers of the people are seriously exhorted to admonish them, that magi- call arts and inchantments cannot heale any infirmity : and that they bee the dangerous snares, and subtilties of that ancient enemy of mankind, by which he indeuoureth to entangle them<sup>c</sup> : and these so streight and seuerer prohibitions are not without iust and weighty cause. For,

First, wee must haue no commerce or dealing with the diuell, cyther directly and immediately, or mediately and indirectly; for we ought to haue our recourse to God alone in all distresses, and this is that which *Eliab* spake with great indignation vnto the messengers of *Abaziah*, who went to enquire of *Baal-zebub*, for the recouerie of their Lords health, *2. King. 1. 2.* <sup>d</sup> So that wee must not seeke to Sathan, or any of his ministers. For none can serue two maisters, *Matt. 6. 24.* But as religious *Iehosaphat*, when we know not what to doe, then lift vp our eyes to heauen, *2. Chron. 20. 12.*

Secondly, that help which any receiue from them bringeth destruction of our soules, for such as seeke for reliefe this way, make a<sup>e</sup> separation &

departing



departing from God, which is the death of the soule. And though it may be objected, that some haue receiued benefite hereby, yet these are not one of tenne. And further, wee are not to iudge heerein of the lawfulnessse of these actions by the successe, but rest vpon the commaundement, for it falleth out sometime, that a thiefe and common robber by the high way, may liue in more abundance, then those who with a lawfull and honest trade painefully maintaine them selues, yet therefore hee is not iustified. And when wee haue recourse vnto others beside God, we bewray herein our<sup>f</sup> distrust, infidelitie, contempt and rebellion against him, which grieuous sinnes bring his wrath and eternall destruction. But let it be taken for granted, that wee may receiue good by them, yet this maxime is sure, & a truth vnrepealeable, which no distinction can elude; we must not doe euill that good may come thereof, *Rom. 3. 8.* <sup>g</sup> yea, <sup>g</sup> *Chrysost. cont. Iudeos hom. 6.* it were better to end our dayes in any extremitie whatsoeuer, then to vse these for our helpers.

Thirdly, they<sup>h</sup> cure not diseases but in shew, except such as themselues haue inflicted, otherwise those doe returne, as is reported of *Adrianus* the<sup>i</sup> Emperour, who troubled with a drop sicke, by i<sup>i</sup> <sup>h</sup> *Tatianus oratione tertia contra Græcos.* <sup>i</sup> *X<sup>p</sup>hilinus ex Dion. in Adriano* magicall charmes did oftentimes empty the water thereof, but in a short space increased againe; <sup>μαγανείαις μὲν τε σὶ καὶ ποταμὸς ἐκα- νετο ποτὶ τὸ ὕδρῳ, παλιν δὲ αὐτὸς ἐ- πύμπλατο.</sup> and perceiuing the same to grow worse & worse, sought to dispatch and rid himselfe of life, by poyson, or the sword, or some other desperate attēpts. Or a worse malady (the first being abated) followeth: as I haue knowne one, who vsing the help of

a wisard for the cure of a sore in his breast, prescribed in this sort : crossed the place affected with his thumb, and mumbled to himselfe some words in secret, after gaue the patient a powder like the ashes of wood, which was to be boiled in running water, and with it to wash the vlcer, after certaine clouts were to be applyed, with speciall care to lay that side of the clout vnto the sore, which was by him crossed, and marked ; and all these clothes must at once be bound vpon it, and euery day the lowest remoued or taken away : thus in short time that anguish and grieve ceased ; but not long after the party fell into a more grieuous infirmity, and still continueth therein . Or if the euill be taken from the <sup>k</sup> person presently afflicted, then is it layd vpon his friends children or cattell, and sometime it falleth to the lot of the witch herselfe, so that alwayes the diuell is a diuell, doing euill, and working mischief.

<sup>k</sup> Bodine pro-  
ueth this by  
many exam-  
ples in his *De-*  
*monomania. lib.*  
*3. cap. 2.*

<sup>1</sup> Binsfeldius de  
confessionibus  
malificorum.  
Cardinalis Caie-  
tanus in summu-  
la titulo de ma-  
leficio.  
Toletus in sum-  
ma casuum con-  
scientiae, siue in-  
structione sacer-  
dotum li. 4. c. 16.  
<sup>m</sup> Gratianus in  
Decretis parte 2.  
causa 26. quest.  
2. sect. Qui sine  
saluatore, &c.

Fourth, a <sup>1</sup> wisard, witch, or forcerer can not relecue any but by his or her inuocation, and help of the diuell, but this fact is absolutely, and without exception, wicked, and can by no limitation or circumstance bee made tolerable : Therefore they who require this at their hands, which they cannot performe without committing of sinne, be liable to the same vengeance and wrath of God to which they are ; for not only the principall offenders, but the <sup>m</sup> accessaries, and consenters to their euill, are worthy of death, *Rom. 1. 32.*

Now before I conclude this poynt, because by these kinde of creatures, many toyes bee vsed, to

shadow



shadow and maske the diuels suggestion and workes, it shall not be amisse to mention some of them, and among the rest be<sup>n</sup> characters written or grauen in plates of mettall: and for these it is most certayne that Quantities haue no actiue qualitie; and therefore, if any expected successe according to desire doe follow in the vse thereof, it proceedeth from the illusion of Sathan, and is his worke, that hereby he might winne credite to his crafty sleights and conueyances, and procure to himselfe authority, establishing the kingdome of darkenesse, withdraw men from resting vpon God, and reposing their trust in his almighty power, and boundlesse mercy, and sollicite them to expect helpe from him. There are besides these, other idle trifles (for they deserue no better name which are appoynted to be hung about the neck) for Amulets, as • powerfull and effectuall remedies against certayne diseases, and pictures made of gold, brasse, lead, wax, &c. which neyther haue nor can haue any other vertue, then that which they doe receiue from the matter wherof they be framed, for the figure worketh not as a cause of alteration; but if it bring to passe any other effect that is from the power of the diuell an old enemy, and craftie deluder of mankind, and therefore, presupposeth a contract made with him: wherefore *P Antoninus Caracalla* condemned those who vsed the same, for the helpe of Tertian and Quartan agues, and *Constantius* decreeth such to be woorthy capitall punishment, and put to death. And that naturall couer wherewith some children

<sup>n</sup> Of these characters and Images, Iohn Gerson de erroribus circa arte magicam dicto 3. litera O. Martinus de Arles de superstitionibus.

Binsfeldius in commentar ad titulum Codicis de maleficiis et mathematicis; and examples Hector Boetius l. 2. historie Scotice, de rege Duffo, and Thuanus lately in the reign of Charles the ninth king of France in the 57. Booke of the historie of his times.

• Binsfeldius in titulum codicis de maleficiis et mathematicis, Martinus de Arles in tractatu de superstitionibus

P Spartianus in vita Antonini Caracalle.

• Ammianus Marcellinus lib. 19. non procul a fine, & lib. 29.



are borne, and is called by our women, the sillie how, Midwiues were wont to sell to credulous Aduocates and Lawyers, as an especiall meanes to furnish them with eloquence<sup>r</sup> and perswasive speech, and to stoppe the mouthes of all, who should make any opposition against them: for which cause one<sup>f</sup> *Protus* was accused by the Clergie of Constantinople to haue offended in this matter. And *Chrysostome* often accuseth Midwiues for reseruing the same to Magicall vses. And *Clemens*<sup>c</sup> *Alexandrinus* giueth vs to vnderstand of one *Erecestus*, who had two inchaunted rings, so framed, that by the sound thereof he had direction for the fit time and opoortunity in mannaging all the busineses hee intended, and yet notwithstanding was priuily murdered, though hee had warning given by that sound which was his vsuall instructor. Thus, none can escape the reuenging hand of God, which pursueth those who haue infeofed themselues to such vanities, and are befotted with these vnlawfull curiosities. But among all other, charmes and inchaunting spells, haue gotten the start of the rest, which some think absolutely lawfull, and may vpon warrantise be vsed, and pleade prescription for their iustificati- on; for wee reade in *Homer*<sup>u</sup> that *Vlysses* being wounded by words, stayed the flux of blood; and<sup>x</sup> *Cardanus* tells vs, that himselfe cutting his lip, could by no meanes restraine the flowing blood, vntill he charmed it, and then presently stanchd: but dare not affirm whether his owne confidence, or the words did make this restraint. I might adde

<sup>r</sup> Lampridius in  
Antonino Dia-  
dumeo.

<sup>f</sup> Balsamon in  
commentarijs ad  
conc. Constanti-  
nopolitanum in  
Trullo cap. 61.

<sup>c</sup> Stromateon  
libr. 1. gestauit  
δυσδαιμονίας καὶ  
τροπυμίας καὶ  
ἀπαθίας δὲ ὁμοῦς  
ἀλλοφροναθείς καὶ  
τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ἐμνηστῆρας  
καὶ φίλους.

<sup>u</sup> *Odissæa* 19.  
victus *Vlysses*  
αὐτολυνε φίλοι  
παῖδες δῖος ἀνιπ-  
ταμένους ἰπταμένους  
καὶ ἀφ᾽ ἑαυτοῦ καλῶν  
ἐχθρῶν.  
*Cato de re ru-  
stica.*  
*Plin. li. 28. ca. 2.*  
*Bodinus Demo-  
nomias l. 2. c. 2.*  
<sup>x</sup> *De subtilitate*  
*libr. 18.*

to these, that infallible meanes (as is supposed) by finding out a thiefe with a Siue and a payre of Sheares, with that coniunction *Dies, mies, Ies-* cet, &c. and the rest of such sencelesse and monstrous tearmes, a Riddle that *Oedipus* himselfe could not vnfolde. But because this conceit of charming hath ouer-spread it selfe in this Sunne-set of the world, and challengeth a lawfull approbation from the authority and practise of ancient<sup>2</sup> Physitians, yea and found some<sup>a</sup> Diuines to be their Patrons respectiuelly, and with clauses of mitigation, I thinke it very necessarie to shew the vnlawfulness thereof. Wherefore,

First, they had their originall and beginning from the diuell, who abode not in the truth, *Iohn* 8. 44. was cast downe with the apostata angels to hell, and deliuered into chaines of darkenesse, 2. *Pet.* 2. 4. who enuying mans felicity receiued into grace after the<sup>b</sup> fall, himselfe eternally reiected, omitted no occasion to weaken and ouerthrow the same, that the benefite thereof might come but to a few, and the greatest number perish with him for euer. Whereupon he endeouored to in-wrappe the weaker sort of that fraile corporation in superstitions, beguile them with doubtfull and false oracles, and bring to a forme of worshippe contrary to that which God had commaunded, <sup>c</sup> whereby the world beganne to abound with Idolatry, disobedience, contempt, murthers, vncleanenesse, lusts, thefts, lying, and such like outrages: and that hee might with his infections impoyson them more dangerously, and soueraigne

<sup>y</sup> *Georgius Pictorius in epitome de Magia. cap. 21.*

<sup>2</sup> *Vide Rithenhusium in notis ad Malchum de vita Pythagoræ. Alexander Tralian. libr. 10. de colico affectu, in fine.*

*Serenus Samonicus de præceptis medicinæ cap. de Hemitricæ depellendæ.*

*Iob. Lægius epistolæ medicinalium lib. 1. epist. 33. & 34.*

<sup>a</sup> *Aquinas in summa secunda secunde quest.*

*96. articulo 4.*

<sup>b</sup> *De differentia inter Diabolos*

*& homines peccatores Augustinus in Enchiridio cap. 28 & in suis ad illum cõmentarijs Lambertus Danæus.*

<sup>c</sup> *Peucerus de generibus Diuinationum & titulo de incantationibus.*



in their hearts, he vndertooke to worke wonders, imitating such miracles as God had done, and deuised cunningly many subtile sleights and legerdemaines, and for this end most blasphemously abused the glorious and holy name of God, and the word vttered by his mouth, and represented a false shew of those effects, which hee had wrought in nature: and heerein leuelled at two intentions, one to reproch God, and counter-checke his works; the other to ouer-mask and couer his owne seeret traps and frauds, perswading men, that by the power of wordes these things were brought to passe, which must needs therefore be of great efficacie: seeing that the world & all things therein were so made of nothing; for he spake, and they were created, and thus practised to disgrace, and extenuate, that adimicable and great worke of Creation, and cause men to make lighter account of the Creator, seeing that they also (instructed by him) were enabled thorow the pronounciation of certayne words contriued into a speciall forme, eyther to infuse new strength into things, or depriue them of that which formerly they had, or alter the course of Nature, in raysing tempests, stirring vp thunder and lightning; in <sup>d</sup> taming serpents, and depriuing them of their naturall fiercenesse and venime, and cause wilde beasts to become meeke and tractable, yea in seeming to make sensible bodies; as cloudes, wind, raine & the like. And thus the diuell is that father who begot Charmes, and brought them foorth, not powerfull in themselues, but by that

*a Prigidus in  
pratis cantando  
rumpitur anguis  
Virg. ecloga 8.*

inter;



inter-league which hee hath with those who are invassaled vnto him.

Secondly, God doth as straitly prohibit them, and seuerely punish the practisers thereof, as others offending in any exercise of vnlawfull arts, *Deut.* 18. 10. 11. There shall not be found among you (instructing the Israelites his people) a charmer, &c. for these are abomination vnto the Lord, &c. And this is recorded in the Catalogue of those finnes of *Manasses*, by which hee sought to prouoke God vnto anger, *2.Kin.* 21.8. *2.Chronicles* 33.6.

Thirdly, words haue no vertue, but either to signifie and expresse the conceits of the minde, or to affect the eares of the Auditors, so that they can worke nothing but in these two respects: first of the matter which is vttered by them, which vnderstood of the hearers, affect the mind diuersly, and that especially when there is ioyned with it a comelineesse of action and pronounciation, as wee see oftentimes in the speeches of the Ministers of the Word, and in the pleadings of Orators.

As when *Paul* reasoned before *Fælix* and *Drusilla* his wife, of Temperance, Righteousnesse, and Iudgement to come. hee trembled, *Acts* 24. 25. being guilty to himselfe of fraudulent and cruell dealing, of lasciuiousnesse and a filthy life, and therefore might iustly feare vengeance for the same.

A like example to this is that in King *Agrippa*, though working vpon a better subiect, *Act.* 26. 28. And if I may conioyne Diuine eloquence

e phugtu Blag-  
mota toumou  
Et eorum Etymolo-  
gicis dicitur  
quasi to quæ to v.  
De hac materia  
eruditissime dis-  
putat Franciscus  
Valesius de sacra  
Philosophia, cap.  
3.

Presectus Iu-  
dex impositus  
cuncta malefa-  
cia sibi impone-  
ratus est, &c.  
Tacitus Annali-  
um lib. 12. &  
historie lib. 5.  
per omnem fie-  
uitiam ac libi-  
dinem ius regi-  
um seruili inge-  
nio exercuit.

h δρζαυρος λί-  
ζειν ὁ κικέρων υ-  
ποφώνος ἐκείνου  
Plutarchus in  
Cicerone.

h Aug. confessi-  
onum lib 9 cap. 6  
Quantum fleus  
in hymnis & cā-  
tibus eius suauē  
sonantibus Ecce-  
sae tue vocibus  
commotus acri-  
ter? Voces illę  
influebant auri-  
bus meis, & li-  
quebatur veri-  
tas tua in cor-  
meum, & ex ea  
estuabat affectus  
pietatis, & cur-  
rebant lacrimę  
& bene mihi e-  
rat cum ipsis.

1 Vide Aquina-  
tem egregie de  
hac materia dis-  
putante Summa  
contra Gentes,  
lib. 43. cap. 105.  
& tuis Commen-  
tatore Fran-  
ciscum de Sylue-  
stris.

2 Caietanus in  
summula in ti-  
tulo: Incanta-  
tio. Toletus in  
summa causarum  
conscientie, siue  
instructione sa-  
cerdotum lib. 4.  
cap. 17.

with Humane, it is memorable, that while *Tully* pleaded before *Cesar* for *Ligarius*, accused by *Tu-bero*, to haue beene confederate with *Pompey*, purposing to put him to death, as an enemy, when the Orator altered, and in Rhetoricall manner inforced his speech, the other changed accordingly his countenance, and bewrayed the piercing words to be so affecting, that the supplications, when he came once to vrge and mention the battell of *Pharsalia*, (trembling and dismayed) did fall from his hands, hauing the passions of his minde extraordinarily moued, and absolved the offender. Or else when by their pleasantnesse, with delight they slide into the hearts of men, and rauish their affections: and thus it was with *Augustine*, as he acknowledgeth of himselfe, that being at *Milaine* where he was baptized by *S. Ambrose*, when he heard the harmony which was in singing of the Psalmes, the words pierced his eares, the truth melted his heart, his passions were moued, and showers of teares with delight fell from his eyes.<sup>1</sup> But these effects are wrought onely in such who vnderstand that which is spoken, but neither of both these properties are to be found in the Charmes of Wisards: besides, that they are conceiued and expressed in monstrous and vnknowne tearmes, not intelligible, and without signification: and therefore the effects they produce being<sup>2</sup> supernaturall must proceed from that secret compact, at the least made with the Diuell.

Fourthly, these charmes are meere mockeries,  
and



and grosse abuses, both of God, and Men his creatures, I will giue you a taste of one or two, whereby you may iudge of the rest, for they came all out of one shoppe, and are fashioned in one forge, and haue the same workman or Artificer.

<sup>1</sup> An old woman crauing helpe for bleare eyes, had deliuered a Biller of Paper to weare about her necke, in which was written, *The Diuell pull out thine eyes*, and recouered. Another tied a scroule to a sicke man, full of strange Characters, with which were intermingled a few names of Diuels, as *Lucifer, Sathan, Belzebub, Oriens, Behal, Mammon, Beuslar, Narithin, Oleasar, &c.* and other of this sort; but what manner of blessing this was, and how likely to be medicinable, a Christian truely instructed in Gods word knoweth; and the Lord who is the father of mercies, and God of all comfort, preferue vs from such blasphemies, which are the Diuels Sacrifices.

<sup>1</sup> Godelmannus in tractatu de magis, Veneficiis &c. lib. 1. cap. 8. n<sup>o</sup> 26 & 27. vide Simonem Maiolum colloquiorum suorum canicularum parte 2, colloquio 3.

Fifthly, the discreeter sort among the Heathen, by that small glimpse of naturall reason which they had, misliked of these things: <sup>m</sup> And therefore *Cato* among the rest of admonitions to the Baliffe of his husbandry, giueth this charge, to aske no aduice of any Southsaier, Diuiner, Wilsard, or Natiuity Calculator. <sup>n</sup> And *Columella* vterly forbiddeth all acquaintance with Witches, wherby ignorant people are inforced to expence detestable Arts, and mischienous deeds. <sup>o</sup> *Hippocrates* doth almost like a Christian discourse of this poynt and condemne the whole practise of this Art, as iniurions vnto God, who onely purgeth

<sup>m</sup> Cato de re rustica, cap 5. <sup>n</sup> Columella lib. 1. cap 8. <sup>o</sup> Libro de morbo sacro (sive illius sit, sive alterius, nam de aethore apud eruditos dubitatio est) statim ab initio. & quadam huc pertinentia habet Theophrastus de plantis lib. 9. cap. 21.



¶ Procopius Ga-  
zens in Leviti-  
cum.

geth finnes, and is our preseruer; and for these fellowes who make profession of such wonder-working, brandeth them for Impostors and deceiuers. I conclude with that remarkeable saying of an ancient Diuine; ¶ These vanities doe separate and with draw vs from God, though they may seeme to haue something in them to allure and delight vs; yet let no Christian entertaine them, whose hope ought to be settled in God alone. And if thou be in distresse, or afflicted with sicknesse of body, and feeble no present release or comfort, what then? here is the tryall of thy patience, haue not recourse to superstitious and vnlawfull helpers, although they promise thee present remedy; and when they fore-tell thee of things which doe truely according to the prediction so fall out, belecue them not, follow the example of Christ, who rebuked the Diuell, though he called him (as he was indeed) the Son of God. For vnder the vaile of truth he shadoweth falshood; euen as if one should sweeten with honey or sugar the brimme of the Cup wherein he bringeth poyson: But some will say, they call vpon the name of the Lord of Sabbaoth. Well, but this title they giue not to God, but to the Diuell: therefore betake thou thy selfe to God alone, craue health at his hand, and follow the Apostles direction; *If any bee sicke among you, let him call for the Elders of the Church, and let him pray,* Iames 5. 14.

The ninth Proposition, and  
second Corrolary.

There hath alwayes beene some wanton, or peruerse wits, who only to make triall of their skill, would take in hand to defend absurd positions, and commend both such things and persons, which were infamous, and contemptible as <sup>q</sup> *Pha-* <sup>q</sup> *Phauorinus a-*  
*uorinus* writ the praise of the Quartane Ague, one <sup>pud Agellium.</sup>  
of the gout, blindnesse, and deafnesse: <sup>lib. 17. cap. 12.</sup> *Lucian* of <sup>Luciani enco-</sup>  
a flye, <sup>mion musce.</sup> *Erasmus* of folly, <sup>Erasmus.</sup> *Synesius* of baldnesse, <sup>Synesius.</sup>  
<sup>Lib. I. de Re-</sup> *Glaucus* in *Plato* of iniustice. And among the ex-  
ercises of the <sup>publica.</sup> <sup>x</sup> ancient Orators, wee finde those <sup>Extat eius</sup>  
who strained all their vnderstanding to blaze the <sup>laudatio inter</sup>  
honour of that witleffe and deformed Coward <sup>exempla exerci-</sup>  
*Thersites*. And this they haue performed with <sup>tationum Rbe-</sup>  
great Art and eloquence, onely to shew their fa-  
culty, but neuer in good earnest took such a mat-  
ter in hand. And therefore more deeply is hee to <sup>torum ab Hen-</sup>  
be censured, who hath made himselfe an aduo-  
cate to plead the cause of <sup>rigo Stephano e-</sup> *Witches*, and defend <sup>ditarum cum</sup>  
thẽ as innocent. And because this is a dangerous <sup>Polemonis &</sup>  
example, and doth draw those who are euill affe-  
cted to offend, hoping for patronage of their im-  
piety, I adde for conclusion this last proposition:  
Wifards, Witches, and the whole rabble of Sor-  
cerers (no kinde excepted) are iustly liable <sup>Himerij decla-</sup> <sup>mationibus.</sup> <sup>y</sup> *Wierus. <sup>z</sup> *Simlerus in*  
to ex- <sup>22 Exodi.</sup> treame punishment. The arguments alleaged for  
L proofe*

<sup>a</sup> Of these all the following reasons. Binsfeldius de confessionibus maleficorum, & in Commentarijs ad titulum legis de maleficis & mathematicis copiose. Remigius de Demonologia, lib. 3. cap. ultimo. Peucerus de precipuis Divisionum generibus. Erastus de Lamijs. Bodinus Demonomanias, lib. 4. cap. 5.

<sup>b</sup> Hieronimus Olearius in locum, & Iunius & Tremelius in eundem.

<sup>c</sup> Perkins of Witch-craft.

<sup>d</sup> Binsfeldius in Commentarium ad titulum codicis de Mathematicis & Maleficis.

prooffe hereof, are many: I will make choyce of a few (with reference to such authors in whose writings more may bee found) and those which are most <sup>a</sup> demonstratiue.

First, God himselfe hath enacted that poenall statute, *Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to liue. Exod. 22 18.* and nameth here a <sup>b</sup> woman practising this damnable Art for two reasons: First, they are more inclinable hereunto then man. Secondly, that though their fault may seeme, as being the weaker, excuseable, and is in this respect extenuated by some, yet is not therefore to bee spared, whether of that sort which they call <sup>c</sup> good, or bad (for so are they distinguished) & there be some who neuer brought <sup>d</sup> harme vpon any in body, goods, or minde. The cause of this so sharpe a doome, is their compacting with the Diuell, openly or secretly, whereby they couenant to vse his helpe, in fulfilling their desires, and by this meanes make themselues guilty of horrible impiety: for in this they renounce the Lord, who hath created them; make no account of his fauour and protection, cut themselues off from the couenant made with him in baptisme, from the communion of Saints, the true fellowship and seruice of God; and on the contrary yeeld themselues by this confederacy, to Sathan, as their God (and therefore nothing more frequent and vsuall in their mouthes, then my God will do this and that for me) him they continually feare and honour. And thus do at the last become professed enemies both to God and Man. You may adde to this for-



ther law, that which is *Leuit. 19. 26. & cap. 6.* You shall use no incantment: the soule that turneth after such as haue familiar spirits, and are wisards, to goe a whooring after them, I will set my face against that soule, and will cut him off from among his people, &c. Againe, *Deut. 18. 10.* There shall not bee found among you any that useth Diuination, nor an obseruer of times, or an inchanter, or a Witch, or a Charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, a wisard, or Necromancer. And that God might shew how much *Manasses* had prouoked him to wrath, through his transcendent and outragious finnes in the Catalogue thereof, his conspiring with Diuels is mentioned *1. King. 21. 8.* And therefore is deprived of his kingdome, bound in fetters, and carried captiue vnto *Babel*, *2. Chron. 33. 6. 11.* and though he repented of these outragious and enormious transgressions, yet God would not bee appeased for them fiftie yeares after he was dead, *Ierem. 15. 4.*

Secondly, the ciuill lawes in this case are most strict, decreeing them to bee burned, and their goods confiscate, though they were persons of quality, and honourable, seated in dignity, and place of authority: and there is a seuerer constitution made by *Charles* the first in late dayes against them, that though they shall not haue done, or be conuicted to haue hurt any, yet because they attempted a thing vnlawfull, and abhominable vnto God, are extraordinarily to be punished. And concerning this particular, *S. Augustin* discourseth excellently, worthy to be read, *de ciu. dei. l. 8. c. 19.*

*Godelmannus de Magis & veneficiis, l. 6. 3. cap. 11. no. 14 15.*

*16. & seq. Anonymus de Mosaicarum & Romanarum legum collatione titulo. 15.*

*Constitutiones criminales Caroli 5<sup>i</sup>. à Georgio Ramo edita cap. 44. 109. & 177*

Such are exempted from all benefit of those pardons which Princes vse to giue to other malefactors.

*Formarius ad legem 236. in Titulo de verborum significatione, vide illum nam multa erudite scribit, ad propositum nostrum pertinentia.*

Thirdly, God willett ~~these~~ should bee put to death, who by Diabolicall and vnlawfull Arts, do endeavour to helpe or harme others, whether in act they performe the same, or purpose with intention conceiuing and thinking they can do it, with ranke Witches must needes be marshalled; and therefore iustly subiect to deserued punishment.

Fourthly, all Idolaters are to dye by diuine appointment, *Deu. 17. 5.* But I thinke no mans forehead is so brasen, that will stand Proctor, and plead guiltlesse for these sort of people, who deuote themselves wholly to the Diuell, though neuer so closely, and with great and cautelous secrecie: and no doubt God therefore was reuenged of the Templars, and their detestable wickednesse practised in darknesse and obscurity, who all <sup>h</sup> perished, as it were, in a moment for the same; of which at the full we may be informed in our owne ancient histories.

<sup>h</sup> Anno Domini  
1312. whose order began  
1123.

Thomas Walsingham in the  
life of K. Edward the 2<sup>d</sup>, in  
his English history, and in  
his Hypodigma  
Neustrie.

Fifthly, they doe solícite others to be of their profession (which is one clause of that contract made betweene them and the Diuell) and consecrate their children vnto him: and against this, there is an especiall caution put in *Deteronomy* 13.6.9.10.

Sixtly, they deserue death as inhumane and barbarous tyrants, for lingeringly, *vt sentiant se mori*, that they may feele how they doe decay by degrees, seek the viter ouerthrow of those whom they doe maligne: and as a further appendix to this, oftentimes by the helpe of their grand teacher,

cher, sowe discord betweene husband and wife, sollicit maydens, yea enforce both single and married women to vncleane, and vnlawfull lusts, and heerein implore the helpe of the diuell, to accomplish their malicious designs, which transgression is capitall.

Seuenthly, the exercise of this act or vanity is punishable by death, although it be practised but onely in sport and ieast, which may appeare thus, because God hath seriously forbidden (and vnder no lesse forfeiture then of life itself) to aske counsell of a Soothsayer or Coniurer, if this then be a crime of such nature, in those, who it may bee heerein thought not to doe euill, there is no reason to induce any to thinke that hee will spare the wilfull, and purposed authors thereof, and Magicians, who worke onely iuggling trickes, and illusions, and fore-tell some future things, as yet vknowne vtill they doe so fall out, are not freed from the sentence condemnatorie; much more then those who willingly, and vpon premeditated malice, murther or impaire the life and good estate of other, deserue to stand paralell with them. And there can no reson be yielded of this so sharp a censure, but onely because they haue learned, and accordingly exercise vnlawfull arts, for who soeuer endeouureth to bring that thing to passe, by pretending naturall meanes, which exceedeth the power of Nature, and is not thereunto enabled eyther by God, or the ministry of good Angells at his appoyntment, hee must of necessity haue this faculty communicated by some coni-



bination and inter-league with the diuell.

Eightly, the Iudge or ciuill Magistrate is bound by vertue of that office, and superioritie he sustaineth in the common-wealth, to purge and free that place, in, and ouer which he hath command, of all malefactors, which if he doe neglect, then is a double offender, against the Law both of Iustice and Charity; for hee is obliged by duety to foresee (so much as in him lyeth) that the publike state should be secured, which it concerneth to haue offenders punished, otherwise hee maketh himselfe partner with them in their outrages and offences, and standeth answerable for those damages sustained by the whole bodie of the people in generall, or vndergone by any particular of the same, for sparing of the wicked<sup>i</sup> is hurting the good, and hee that doth not repress and forbid euill (when it is in his power) doth countenance and maintaine it.

<sup>i</sup> Pythagoras apud Stobaeum.

Much more might be added, and many examples produced, to manifest, how in all Nations these odious company of witches, and the like haue euer beene accounted detestable; and for their impious deedes requited with neuer dying shame, and vtter confusion, and iustly by law executed; for among the Romans, Mathematicians,<sup>k</sup> and Magicians by the Decree of the Senate were expelled out of all Italy: and amongst these *Pituanus* was throwne downe from the rocke *Tarpeius*, and crushed apeece. *Martius* by the Consuls put to death with the sound of a Trumpet without the gate *Exquilinae*: *Publicus* and *Li-*

<sup>k</sup> Tacitus annalium li. 2. et consule Lipsium in suis ad eum commentarijs.

cinia<sup>1</sup> women, and seauenty more witches hanged. The<sup>m</sup> speedy iudgement of the Athenians, witnesse of their harred against these kinde of malefactors, is much commended, who without any other solemnity of proceeding at the onely accusation of a Maide, without delay put one *Lemnia* a witch to death: and it is memorable which *Ammianus*<sup>n</sup> *Marcellinus* hath left in record, that one *Hilarius*, because hee committed his sonne yong, and not of mature yeares, to be taught and instructed vnto a Coniurer, was adiudged to die, and escaping from the hands of the executioner, who had negligently bound him, drawne by force out of the next church of the Christians, to which hee fled as vnto a Sanctuary, and executed.

<sup>1</sup> *Valerius Maximus* li. 6. ca. 3.  
<sup>2</sup> *Remigius Demolog.* l. 3. c. 10.  
<sup>3</sup> *Demosthenes* orat. 1. co. 17.  
<sup>4</sup> *Aristogitonem.*

<sup>n</sup> *Libr. 26.* not farre from the beginning.

The end of <sup>o</sup> *Varasolo*, a famous Inchantresse in Hungarie is dreadfull, who for her sundry wicherics was cast into prison, and there constrained through extremity of hunger, to teare off and eate the flesh of her owne legges and armes, and at the last, impatient of further delay, there murdered herselfe, and shortned the span of her life.

<sup>o</sup> *Bonfinius rerum Hungaricarum decadis 2. libr. 2.*

But here I stay my hand, take it from the table, and the rather, because much hath already beene spoken to this purpose. Wherefore, for conclusion, I shut vp this whole Treatise with a remarkable speech of a noble <sup>p</sup> King; Let the streight ri-

<sup>p</sup> *Allaricus apud Cassiodorum* li. 9. epist. 18. in qua edictum illius; and *Cornelius*

*Agrippa*, sometime more then well acquainted with this Art, doth retract his owne books written of secret philosophy, & in plaine tearms and expresse giues his iudgement, that all these lewd women (for this title may include the whole rabble of this blacke Guard) with *Iannes* and *Iambres*, and *Simon Magus*, are to be tormented with endlesse paines in eternall fire. *Cornelius Agrippa De vanitate Scientiarum* ca. 48.



of law bee inflicted vpon all, both practicers  
and partakers with wifards, by setting any confi-  
dence in them; for it is vngodly for man to be re-  
fuge and fauourable vnto those whom diuine pi-  
ety and our duty to God will not suffer vnpu-  
nished. For what folly were it to forsake the Crea-  
tor and Giuer of life, and to follow the author of  
death? this dishonest fact, vnbeseeeming, and vt-  
terly repugnant to the credite and reputation of a  
Iudge, be farre from him. Let none countenance  
that which the Lawes doe condemne, for all are  
by the Regall Edicts to bee punished with death,  
who intermeddle with such forbidden and vnlaw-  
full Artes.

**FINIS.**



